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ABSTRACT

The National Survey of Family Growth is a periodic survey administered to women between the ages of 15 and 44 years and designed to produce national estimates of statistics on fertility, family planning, and aspects of maternal and child health that are closely related to childbearing. This report describes findings from the 1982 National Survey of Family Growth, the first administration of the survey to include never married women. It presents statistics on contraceptive use at first sexual intercourse, first method of contraception ever used, all methods ever used, and current contraceptive status and method. The statistics are shown for women according to race, age, marital status, and selected socioeconomic characteristics. National estimates of contraceptive use for all women of reproductive age are presented in chronological order. Twelve text figures, 8 text tables, and 16 detailed tables are included. Technical notes, definitions of terms, and selected sections of the questionnaire of the National Survey of Family Growth are appended. (NB)

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VITAL AND HEALTH STATISTICS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • Public Health Service • National Center for Health Statistics • Series 23, No. 12

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Contraceptive Use
United States, 1982

Data From the National Survey of Family Growth

Series 23, No. 12

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VITAL & HEALTH STATISTICS

Contraceptive Use
United States, 1982

Based on data collected in 1982, statistics are presented on contraceptive use at first sexual intercourse, first method ever used, all methods ever used, and current contraceptive status and method. The statistics are shown for women 15–44 years of age, according to race, age, marital status, and selected socioeconomic characteristics.

Data From the National Survey of Family Growth
Series 23, No. 12

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September 1986

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Contents

Introduction 1

Summary of principal findings 2
- Race 3
- Education 3

Source and limitations of the data 4

Findings 5
- Use of contraception at first intercourse 5
- Methods used at first intercourse 6
- First method ever used 7
- Methods ever used 8
- Use of the oral contraceptive pill 9
- Current contraceptive status and method 10

References 21

List of detailed tables 22

Appendixes

I. Technical notes 43
II. Definitions of terms 48
III. Selected sections of the questionnaire of the National Survey of Family Growth 51

List of text figures

1. Percent of women 15–44 years of age who used a contraceptive method at first sexual intercourse: United States, 1982 ... 5
2. Percent of contracepting women 15–44 years of age using specified methods at first intercourse, first method used, and current method for currently married contraceptors: United States, 1982 6
3. Percent of women 15–44 years of age using contraception at first intercourse who used the pill, by age at interview and race: United States, 1982 7
4. Percent of women 15–44 years of age using contraception at first intercourse who used the pill, by age at first intercourse: United States, 1982 7
5. Percent of women 15–44 years of age who had ever had intercourse who had ever used selected methods, by race: United States, 1982 9
6. Percent of women 15–44 years of age who had ever had intercourse who had ever used selected methods, by education: United States, 1982 10
7. Number of women 15–44 years of age using specified methods of contraception at the date of interview: United States, 1982 11
8. Percent of women 15–44 years of age who were currently using contraception, by whether sterilization or nonsurgical and marital status: United States, 1982 13
9. Percent of contraceptors 15–44 years of age using male and female sterilization and the pill, by marital status: United States, 1982 14
10. Percent of currently married contraceptors 15–44 years of age using specified methods of contraception, by age: United States, 1982 16
11. Percent of currently married contraceptors 15–44 years of age using selected methods: United States, 1965, 1973, and 1982 16
12. Percent of currently married nonsurgical contraceptors 15–44 years of age currently using the pill, by race, Hispanic origin, and region: United States, 1982 19

List of text tables

A. Percent of women 15–44 years of age who had ever had intercourse who used a method of contraception at first intercourse and percent of contraceptors who used the pill, by whether first intercourse was premarital and year of first intercourse: United States, 1982 6

B. Mean number of contraceptive methods ever used by selected characteristics for women 15–44 years of age who have ever had intercourse: United States, 1982 8

C. Number of never married women 15–44 years of age who were exposed to the risk of an unintended pregnancy, percent using a method of contraception, and percent distribution by method used, according to race and age: United States, 1982 ... 12

D. Percent of women 15–44 years of age using contraception and percent distribution by current method of contraception, according to marital status: United States, 1982 13

E. Percent distribution of currently married women 15–44 years of age using contraception by method of contraception, according to age, intent, and race: United States, 1965–82 15

F. Percent distribution of currently married women 15–44 years of age by contraceptive status, according to race, Hispanic origin, and parity: United States, 1976 and 1982 17

G. Percent distribution of currently married women 15–44 years of age using contraceptives other than sterilization by current method, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1976 and 1982 18

H. Number of widowed, divorced, and separated women 15–44 years of age and percent distribution by contraceptive status and method, according to race: United States, 1973, 1976, and 1982 20

Symbols

- - -	Data not available
. . .	Category not applicable
-	Quantity zero
0.0	Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05
Z	Quantity more than zero but less than 500 where numbers are rounded to thousands
*	Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision (30-percent or more relative standard error)

Contraceptive Use

by William D. Mosher, Ph.D., and Christine A. Bachrach, Ph.D., Division of Vital Statistics

Introduction

The National Survey of Family Growth, a periodic survey conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics, is designed to produce national estimates of statistics on fertility, family planning, and aspects of maternal and child health that are closely related to childbearing. This report describes trends in current contraceptive use among married and formerly married women. In addition, the 1982 National Survey of Family Growth was the first to include never married women, and this makes it possible to present new data on use at first sexual intercourse, the first contraceptive method ever used, and all methods ever used, for the 54 million women 15–44 years of age in the United States in 1982.

The final data shown here supersede the preliminary data for 1982 published in the Advance Data series,[1] and greatly expand the scope of two other analyses of contraceptive use from the 1982 survey.[2,3] This analysis may be viewed as the most comprehensive study of contraceptive use by the U.S. population ever published, because previous analyses have been based on nonrepresentative samples, or limited to ever married women,[4–7] to just one or two measures of contraceptive use,[6,8] or to much narrower age groups.[9,10] National estimates of contraceptive use for all women of reproductive age are presented here in chronological order, beginning with use at first intercourse, and including the first method ever used, all methods ever used, and the current method.

Summary of principal findings

Less than half (45 percent) of women 15–44 years of age used a contraceptive method at their first sexual intercourse. As shown in figure 1, black women were less likely than white women to use contraception at first intercourse, and Hispanic women were even less likely to do so. Larger proportions of more educated and higher income women used a method at their first intercourse, compared with less educated and lower income women.

Contraceptive choice varies substantially from one stage of the life cycle to another (figure 2). Among women using a method at first intercourse, the most popular methods were the condom, pill, and withdrawal, in that order. However, if the first method ever used is examined, regardless of when it was used, the pill was the leading method, followed by the condom and by withdrawal. Among women who were currently married and using contraception to delay their next birth, in 1982, the pill was still by far the leading method (45 percent, figure 2), followed by the condom (18 percent) and diaphragm (15 percent). Among married couples who had finished their families—those who intended no more children—female sterilization was by far the leading method in 1982 (used by 38 percent), followed by male sterilization (23 percent), the condom (12 percent), and the pill (9 percent).

At each of these life cycle stages, there are major differences by characteristics of the woman. For example, among white women who used contraception at first intercourse, the percent who used the pill was highest (34 percent) among those 25–34 years of age at interview, but 24 and 23 percent, respectively, among those 15–24 and 35–44 years of age (figure 3). This reflects the fact that use of the pill at first intercourse has declined since the early 1970's. Among black women, the percent using the pill at first intercourse rose sharply from the older to the younger age groups, suggesting an uninterrupted trend toward more use of the pill. Women who delayed their first intercourse until age 18 or later were much more likely to use the pill at first intercourse than those who had first intercourse at age 17 or under (figure 4).

About 95 percent of women 15–44 years of age who had ever had intercourse had used at least one contraceptive method at some time. About 3 out of 4 (76 percent, or 35.7 million) had ever used the pill, 1 out of 2 (52 percent) had used the condom, and 1 out of 4 (25 percent) had used foam and withdrawal. The data clearly show that white women had used more methods than black women. About equal proportions of black and white women have ever used the pill, but white women were more likely than black women to have ever used the diaphragm, condom, foam, periodic abstinence, withdrawal, and male sterilization (figure 5). The only methods that black women were more likely to have ever used were douching and female sterilization. Similarly, women in the highest education group had used more methods than those with less education; the former were more likely to have ever used the diaphragm, condom, and periodic abstinence than those with less than a high school education (figure 6).

About 35.7 million women 15–44 years of age had ever used the pill, including 8.4 million who were currently using it and 27.2 million who used it in the past. About one in three of these former users, or about 9.7 million women, had been told to stop using the pill by a doctor.

When contraceptive use was measured at the date of interview in 1982, about 55 percent of all women 15–44 years of age (29.5 million) were using contraception, including 12 percent (6.5 million) female sterilization, 6 percent male sterilization (3.2 million), 16 percent the pill (8.4 million), and 21 percent (11.4 million) other nonsurgical methods (figure 7). Sterilization was the leading method in 1982 if male and female sterilization are counted as a single method (figure 7). However, if male and female sterilization are considered to be separate methods, the pill was the leading method among all women aged 15–44 years in 1982.

Because of differences in the percents who are currently exposed to the risk of an unintended pregnancy, the percent who were currently using a method varied from 35 percent among never married women to 68 percent among currently married women (figure 8). Among currently married and formerly married contraceptors, female sterilization alone was the leading method in 1982; the pill was the leading method among never married women (figure 9). About half of never married contraceptors (53 percent) were using the pill in 1982; the diaphragm and condom followed at some distance. Sterilization was a minor method among never married women.

Among currently married couples, female sterilization, the pill, and male sterilization, in that order, were the leading methods (figure 9). For couples with wives 15–29 years of age, the leading method was the pill; for couples 30–44 years of age, the leading method was female sterilization, followed by male sterilization (figure 10).

Contraceptive use among currently married couples changed dramatically from 1965 to 1982. The most important trends included the following:

- The percent using the pill increased markedly until 1973, when it was the leading method, used by 36 percent of married contraceptors (figure 11). This percent fell to 33

in 1976 and plummeted to 20 percent in 1982 when the pill was no longer the leading method among married couples.

- Female sterilization nearly doubled between 1965 and 1973, from 7 to 12 percent, and more than doubled to 26 percent in 1982, when it was the leading method among married couples.
- Use of male contraceptive sterilization increased from 5 to 11 percent of contraceptors between 1965 and 1973; it was used by 15 percent in 1982.

Method preference among contraceptors may also be studied only for those using temporary methods, that is, methods other than sterilization. Among married couples, the pill was still the leading nonsurgical method among white, black, Hispanic, and non-Hispanic women, and in three of the four major regions. A striking exception, however, was in the Northeast, where the condom was the leading method, and the pill was used by only 15 percent of married contraceptors (figure 12).

This report describes trends and differences in contraceptive use by social and economic characteristics of the women, such as their age, race, education, family income, religion, and whether they intend to have more children. Race and education are two of the most important characteristics; they affect all aspects of contraceptive practice.

Race

Compared with white women, black women were (*a*) less likely to use a contraceptive method at their first sexual intercourse, (*b*) more likely to use the pill and less likely to use withdrawal as their first method, (*c*) slightly less likely than white women to have ever used a method, (*d*) less likely to have ever used the barrier methods (condom, foam, diaphragm), (*e*) less likely to use male sterilization as a method, (*f*) more likely than white women to be currently using the pill, and (*g*) more likely to be current nonusers of contraception.

Education

Women having 13 years or more of education, compared with those having less than a high school education, were (*a*) about twice as likely to use a method at first intercourse, and (*b*) much more likely to have ever used the diaphragm, condom, foam, and periodic abstinence. Among currently married contraceptors, the better educated were less likely to be currently using the pill or female sterilization, and more likely to be using the diaphragm.

Source and limitations of the data

Cycle III of the National Survey of Family Growth was based on personal interviews with a multistage area probability sample of 7,969 women 15–44 years of age in the noninstitutionalized population of the conterminous United States. For the first time, women were eligible for interview regardless of their marital status.

Between August of 1982 and February of 1983, 4,577 white, 3,201 black, and 191 women of other races were interviewed. Women 15–19 years of age and black women were sampled at higher rates than other women, to increase the reliability of statistics for these groups. The interview focused on the respondents' marital and pregnancy histories, their use of contraception, whether each pregnancy was planned at the time of conception, their use of family planning and infertility services, their physical ability to bear children, and a wide range of social and economic characteristics. Interviews were conducted by trained female interviewers and lasted an average of 1 hour.

Characteristics such as age, race, Hispanic origin, parity, education, geographic region, labor force status, and religion are reported for the women interviewed. For convenience, terms such as "black couples" or "couples 30–44 years of age" refer to couples with black wives or wives 30–44 years of age, regardless of the characteristics of the husbands in those couples.

The statistics are estimates for the national population from which the sample was drawn. Because the estimates are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability. Also, nonsampling errors may have been introduced during data collection, processing, and analysis, although quality control measures were used at each stage to minimize error. Further discussion of the survey design, definitions of terms, and sampling variability can be found in the appendixes of this report and in a detailed report on the design of the 1982 survey.[11]

The term "similar" means that any observed difference between two estimates being compared is not statistically significant; terms such as "greater," "less," "larger," and "smaller" indicate that the observed differences are statistically significant at the 5-percent confidence level using a two-tailed t-test with 39 degrees of freedom. Statements about differences that are qualified in some way (for example, "the data suggest" or "some evidence") indicate that the difference is significant at the 10-percent level but not at the 5-percent level.

Following this summary and background are sections discussing detailed findings in chronological order: Contraceptive use at first sexual intercourse, first contraceptive method ever used (regardless of when it was used), all methods ever used, current contraceptive status and method (including trends among married women), and the source of the current method. Appendixes I–III contain technical notes, definitions of terms, and some of the survey questions on contraception.

Findings

There are many ways to measure contraceptive use, and each measure gives different insights. For that reason, several measures of contraceptive use are discussed in this report. The percent who have ever used certain methods is a cumulative measure of contraceptive practice in a population and shows the lifetime variety of contraceptive practice, but it has no specific or common time reference. "Use at first intercourse" measures the extent to which women try to reduce the risk of pregnancy at the beginning of their sexual experience. "First method ever used" describes how women begin their contraceptive practice. Current contraceptive use gives the most current view of contraceptive practice, and may be looked at in several different ways, depending on whether contraceptive sterilization is considered a method of contraception and on whether one is interested in use as a percent of all women, of those at risk of an unplanned pregnancy, or just of those using contraception.

Use of contraception at first intercourse

For the first time in the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), women who reported ever having used more than one contraceptive method were asked which method they used first, and when they first used it. Table 1 presents data on the percent of women who used a method at their first sexual intercourse. Data like these are important because most women have intercourse before marriage,[12] exposing themselves to the risk of unplanned premarital pregnancy if they delay contraceptive use. Contraceptive use may be a major factor affecting group differences in premarital pregnancy and births to unmarried women. The data in tables 1 and 2 show use at first intercourse in relation to a number of characteristics associated with contraceptive use.

Only 45 percent of women 15–44 years of age in 1982 had used a contraceptive method at their first sexual intercourse. Use was more likely among white non-Hispanic, better educated, higher income, and older women. The proportion who used a method at first intercourse was 47 percent among white women, 34 percent among black women, and only 25 percent among Hispanic women (figure 1). The proportion using a method at first intercourse was twice as high for women with 13 years or more of education (54 percent) as it was for women with less than 12 years of education (26 percent). Women with current family incomes of less than 150 percent of poverty level were much less likely to use a method at first intercourse (34 percent) than those with family incomes of three times the poverty level or more (51 percent). Women living with both parents at age 14 years were more likely to use a method at first intercourse (47 percent) than those living with one or neither parent (38 percent). Finally, women delaying their first intercourse until age 18 years or later were more likely to use a method (48 percent) than those who began having intercourse at age 17 years or under (41 percent).

Although many of the differences were not statistically significant, the proportion of women using a method at first intercourse was generally higher for women 15–19 years of age at interview than for those 35–44. Overall, 48 percent of teenagers and 40 percent of women 35–44 years of age used a method at first intercourse; this suggests that use at first intercourse has increased in the last decade or two, and the data in table A confirm that speculation.

The apparent increase in contraceptive use at first intercourse was found among white women (from 42 percent at age 35–44 years to 52 percent at age 15–19 years), but not among black and Hispanic women. The differences by marital status at interview partly reflect this trend: Use was higher among never married women, who were younger and, therefore, had their first intercourse more recently than formerly married

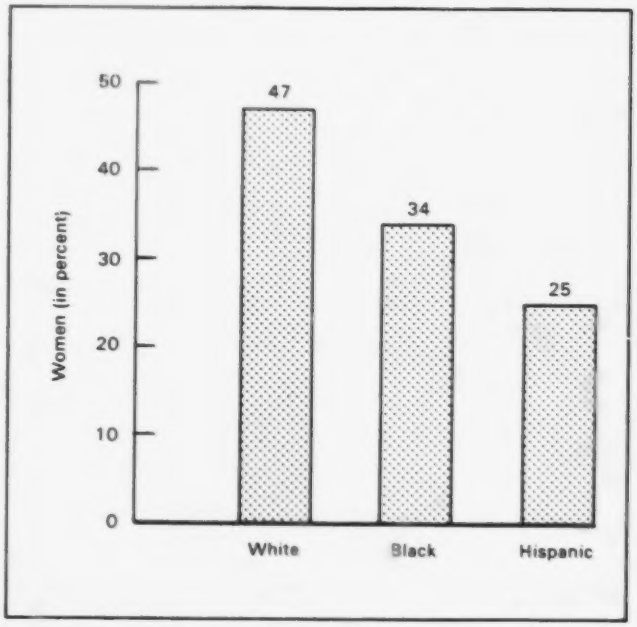

Figure 1. Percent of women 15–44 years of age who used a contraceptive method at first sexual intercourse: United States, 1982

Table A. Percent of women 15–44 years of age who had ever had intercourse who used a method of contraception at first intercourse and percent of contraceptors who used the pill, by whether first intercourse was premarital and year of first intercourse: United States, 1982

Year of first intercourse	Contraceptors		Contraceptors who used the pill	
	Total[1]	Premarital	Total[1]	Premarital
	Percent			
All years	44.5	45.0	28.2	22.8
1980–82	53.9	55.5	21.2	19.7
1975–79	48.8	47.6	32.1	24.6
1970–74	47.1	46.3	37.6	31.5
1965–69	40.6	40.9	32.2	21.8
Before 1965	36.2	36.4	10.9	9.5

[1]Includes first intercourse after marriage, not shown separately.

women. The increase in use at first intercourse was especially large among Catholic women, from 34 percent among women 35–44 years of age to 49 percent among women 15–19 years of age; so that there was no overall difference between Protestant and Catholic women aged 15–44 years.

Methods used at first intercourse

The methods used at first sexual intercourse give a clearer indication of the degree to which women who use a method are protected from unplanned pregnancy at their first intercourse.[2,13] Overall and in most subgroups the leading method at first intercourse was the condom, which was used by 39 percent, followed by the pill and withdrawal (figure 2). No other method was used by more than 6 percent of contraceptors.

The proportion of white women and women of all races who used the pill at first intercourse was higher among those aged 25–34 years at interview than in the other age groups (figure 3), because many of these women had their first intercourse in the early 1970's, when pill use at first intercourse was highest (table A). However, the proportion of black contraceptors using the pill at first intercourse rose sharply, from 10 percent at age 35–44 years to 38 percent at age 15–24 years (figure 3). The percent of women who used withdrawal at first intercourse was higher among younger women than among older women (27 percent among teenagers and 13 percent among women 35–44 years of age), suggesting that use of withdrawal at first intercourse has been increasing (this is confirmed by further analysis, not shown). Differences by age in use of methods other than the condom, pill, and withdrawal were generally small and not statistically significant.

Table 1 shows that white women were more likely than black women to have used a method at first intercourse. Among women who used a method, however, black women were more likely to have used the condom (47 percent) than white women (37 percent) and less likely to have used withdrawal (8 percent compared with 20 percent). The percents of white and black contracepting women using the pill were similar.

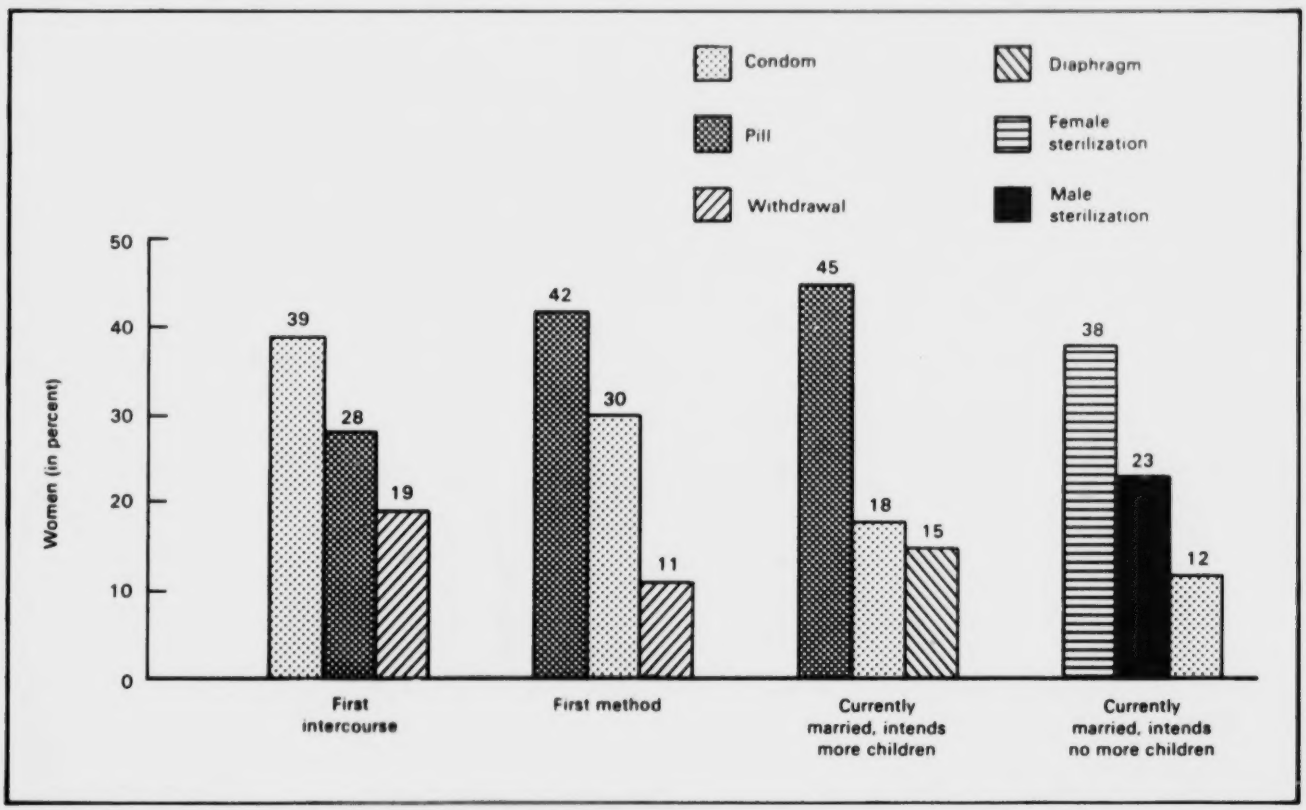

Figure 2. Percent of contracepting women 15–44 years of age using specified methods at first intercourse, first method used, and current method for currently married contraceptors: United States, 1982

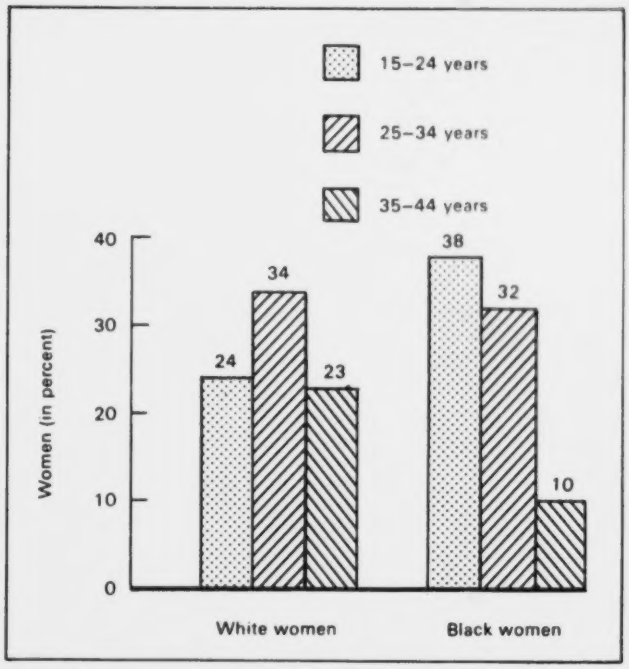

Figure 3. Percent of women 15–44 years of age using contraception at first intercourse who used the pill, by age at interview and race: United States, 1982

Women who delayed their first intercourse until age 18 years or later were much more likely to use the pill (34 percent) than those who had first intercourse at 17 years of age or under (20 percent, figure 4), and much less likely to use the condom and withdrawal. Thus, women who began intercourse later were more likely to use a method, and also more likely to use one of the more effective methods.

Figure 4. Percent of women 15–44 years of age using contraception at first intercourse who used the pill, by age at first intercourse: United States, 1982

First method ever used

While more than half of all women did not use a contraceptive method at first intercourse, nearly all (95 percent) had used a method at some time. A tabulation not shown here reveals that about 23 percent of women did not use a method until at least one year after their first intercourse; this proportion was 21 percent among white and 33 percent among black women. This section examines the methods American women use once they begin using contraception.

In contrast to first intercourse (table 2), where the leading method was the condom, the leading first method of contraception was the pill (42 percent, tables 3 and 4) followed by the condom (30 percent) and withdrawal (11 percent). The proportion using the pill as the first method was higher among women aged 25–34 years at interview than among those 40–44 and 15–19 years of age. This probably reflects the overall trend in pill use shown in table A and described in a later section of this report: Pill use increased during the 1960's and early 1970's, and then declined. Women aged 25–34 years in 1982 were more likely than younger or older women to have begun using contraceptives in the early 1970's, when the pill was most popular.

Black women were substantially more likely to use the pill as their first method (50 percent) than white women (40 percent). These differences by race were especially large in the ages under 30 years of age. Black women were less likely to have used withdrawal (5 percent) than white women (12 percent). These race differences were also especially large in the age groups under 30 years of age. The other differences between white and black women in their first methods ever used were small and generally not significant.

Overall and at age 15–24 years, women currently married at the date of interview were more likely than never married women to use the pill as their first method, and less likely to use withdrawal. These differences probably reflect the older age of married than never married women and thus the years in which they first used a method.

Table 4 shows data on first method ever used by selected socioeconomic characteristics. Hispanic women were more likely to use the IUD as their first method (7 percent) than non-Hispanic women (1 percent), and less likely to use the condom. Hispanic women appeared to be more likely to use the pill as their first method (48 percent) than non-Hispanic women (41 percent), although this difference was not statistically significant.

Women living in the Northeast were more likely to use the condom and less likely to use the pill as their first method than women living in the West. Differences in methods used at first intercourse by education, income, and whether living with both parents at age 14 years were small and generally not statistically significant. The data suggest that Protestant women were more likely than Catholic women to use the pill as their first method (43 compared with 39 percent). Catholic women were more likely than Protestant women to use periodic abstinence as their first method (8 percent compared with 4 percent). Women who had their first intercourse at age 17 years or less were more likely than those who had first intercourse later to use the condom or withdrawal as their first method.

Methods ever used

Tables 5 and 6 contain data on the percent of women who had ever used each type of contraceptive method. These data show the full cumulative experience of contraceptive use in various subgroups of the population, which may not be reflected in current use. Data on ever use of methods may also be helpful to estimate the size of the population that has ever been exposed to the health risks and benefits of certain contraceptives such as the pill and IUD.[14-17]

About 95 percent of women 15–44 years of age who had ever had intercourse had ever used some method of contraception. The same proportion (95 percent) had ever used a nonsurgical method—a method other than sterilization. This shows a much higher level of use than is suggested by measures of current contraceptive status, because most women who are currently pregnant, seeking pregnancy, or surgically sterile have used some form of contraception in the past. About 85 percent of teenagers, and more than 90 percent in each age group at 20 years of age and over had ever used a method. Women who had ever had sexual intercourse had used an average of 2.8 contraceptive methods (table B). White women used more methods than black women (2.9 versus 2.4), and non-Hispanic women had used more than Hispanic women (2.8 versus 2.4). Women in the highest education group had used more (3.2) than women in the lowest education group (2.2). Protestant women had used more methods than Catholic women (2.9 versus 2.6), and women with more income used more (2.9) than those with lower income (2.5). These differences are reflected in the data in tables 5 and 6.

About 76 percent of women who had ever had intercourse, or 66 percent of all women (35.6 million), had ever used the pill; 52 percent (or 24.2 million) had ever used the condom; and 25 percent each had used foam or withdrawal. The other methods had been used by less than 20 percent of women (table 5). As was found for first method ever used and use at first intercourse, the proportion who had ever used the pill was higher at ages 25–34 years than at 15–19 or 40–44 years of age. Ever use of the IUD follows a similar pattern. The percents who had used the condom and diaphragm were highest among women aged 25–29 and 40–44 years. These patterns reflect changes over time in the popularity of different methods, as well as the accumulated experience of women with different methods as they grow older.

White women were only slightly more likely to have ever used a method (95 percent) than black women (92 percent). However, white women were much more likely than black women to have used male sterilization (12 and 1 percent, respectively), and more likely to have used the diaphragm, condom, foam, periodic abstinence, and withdrawal (figure 5). Black women, on the other hand, were more likely than white women to have ever used the IUD, douche, and female sterilization. The percents who had ever used the pill were similar for white and black women (figure 5).

The percent who had ever used each method varied by social and economic characteristics (table 6). Hispanic women were less likely to have ever used any method (88 percent) than non-Hispanic women (95 percent), and less likely to have used the diaphragm, condom, periodic abstinence, and withdrawal. Hispanic women also appeared to be less likely to have ever used the pill, male sterilization, and foam, but these differences were not statistically significant. Hispanic women were substantially more likely, however, to have ever used the IUD than non-Hispanic women (29 percent compared with 18 percent).

Variations by region in the proportions ever having used specific methods were generally not large or significant. However, the percent who ever used the pill was lower in the Northeast than in the other three regions; and the percent who ever used periodic abstinence was lower in the South than in the other three regions.

Education was associated with use at first intercourse (table 1), but not with first method ever used (table 4). Education was, however, strongly associated with the percent who have ever used specific methods (figure 6). The percent who ever used the diaphragm increased from 7 percent in the lowest education group to 28 percent in the highest. The proportion who ever used the condom increased from 44 percent of those with less than 12 years of education to 58 percent for those

Table B. Mean number of contraceptive methods ever used by selected characteristics for women 15–44 years of age who have ever had intercourse: United States, 1982

Characteristic	*Mean number of contraceptive methods used*
Total[1]	2.8
Race	
White	2.9
Black	2.4
Hispanic origin	
Hispanic	2.4
Non-Hispanic	2.8
Marital status	
Never married	2.2
Currently married	3.0
Formerly married	3.1
Education	
Less than 12 years	2.2
12 years	2.7
13 years or more	3.2
Religion	
Protestant	2.9
Catholic	2.6
Poverty level income	
149 percent or less	2.5
150 percent or more	2.9
Age	
15–19 years	1.7
20–24 years	2.3
25–29 years	3.0
30–34 years	3.2
35–39 years	3.1
40–44 years	3.2

[1]Includes white, black, and other races; Protestant, Catholic, other religions, and no religion.

NOTE: Weighted numbers may be obtained from tables 5 and 6.

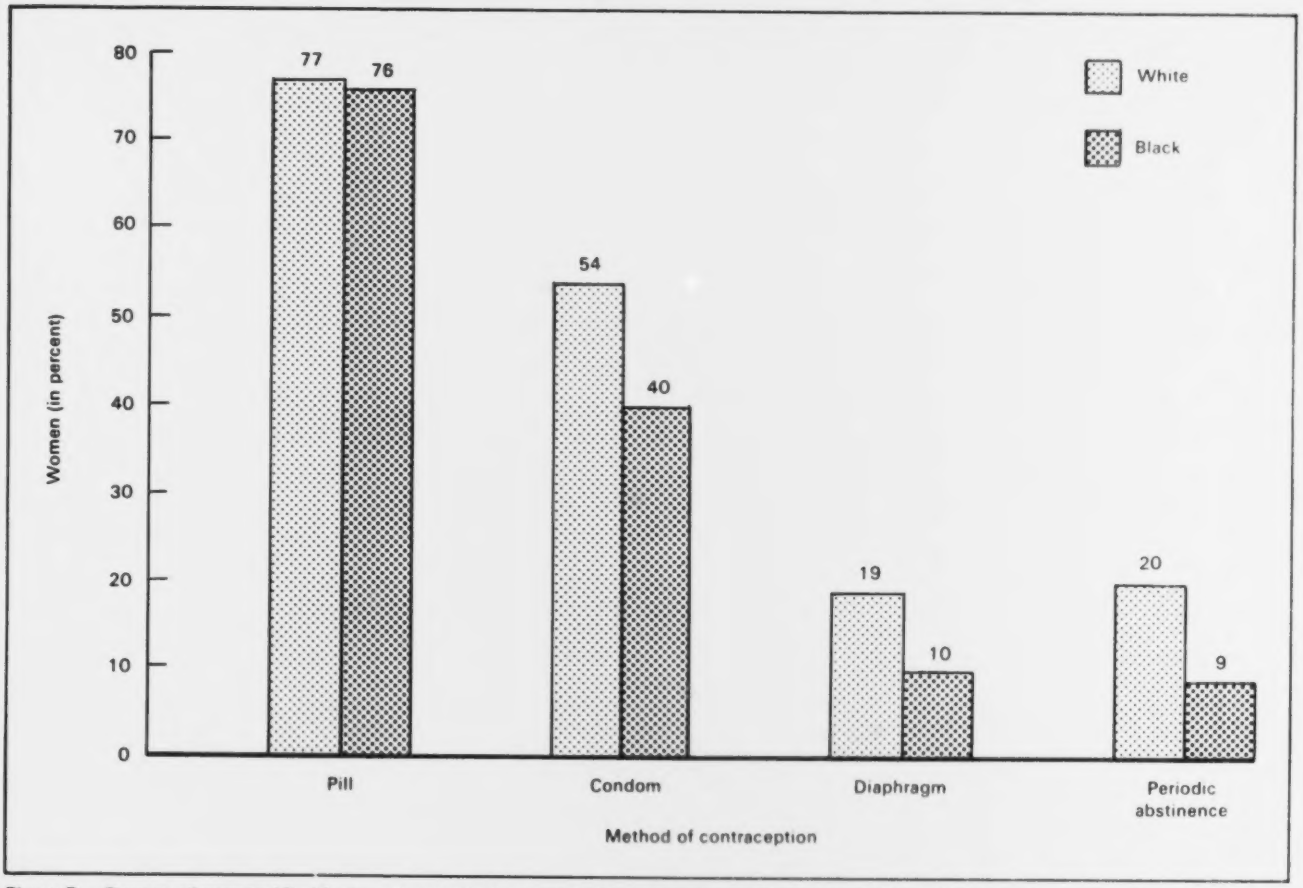

Figure 5. Percent of women 15–44 years of age who had ever had intercourse who had ever used selected methods, by race: United States, 1982

with 13 years or more. The percent who ever used periodic abstinence increased with education from 8 to 25 percent. Furthermore, the proportion who ever used the pill, male sterilization, and withdrawal was lower for those with less than 12 years of school than for those in the other education groups. These findings did not appear to be the result of age: When women 15–19 or 15–24 years of age (who may not have completed their education) were removed, the differences persisted (tabulations not shown).

Comparing women in the lowest income group (149 percent of poverty or below) with those in the highest (300 percent or higher), women with higher family incomes were more likely than women with low incomes to have ever used male sterilization, the pill, the diaphragm, condom, and periodic abstinence. Many of these differences parallel those by race and education.

Earlier studies found that the percent of married women who had ever used specific methods differed sharply by religious affiliation,[7] and that was true for all women in 1982 (table 6). Protestant women were more likely to have ever used the pill than Catholic women (81 percent compared with 68 percent), and less likely to have ever used periodic abstinence (16 percent compared with 23 percent). Protestant women were also more likely to have used female or male sterilization than Catholic women.

Women who had their first intercourse at age 18 years or later were more likely to have ever used male sterilization, the diaphragm, periodic abstinence, and less likely to have used the pill or withdrawal than women who began having intercourse before age 18 years. Differences in the percents ever having used specific methods by whether the respondent lived with both parents at age 14 years were generally small and not significant.

Use of the oral contraceptive pill

The pill was the leading nonsurgical method in the United States in 1982, and had been since at least 1965.[6] Two-thirds of all women 15–44 years of age in the United States, about 35.7 million women, had ever used oral contraceptives—more than any other method. This means that more women had been exposed to the health risks and benefits of this method than any other.[14,16] Table 7 shows the percent of all women who had ever used and were currently using the pill, along with the percent of former users who were told to stop using the pill by a doctor.

As has been seen, the percent of women who have ever used the pill peaks at ages 25–34 years, and is lower at ages 15–19 and 40–44 years (table 7). Ever use is higher among ever married than never married women, higher among Prot-

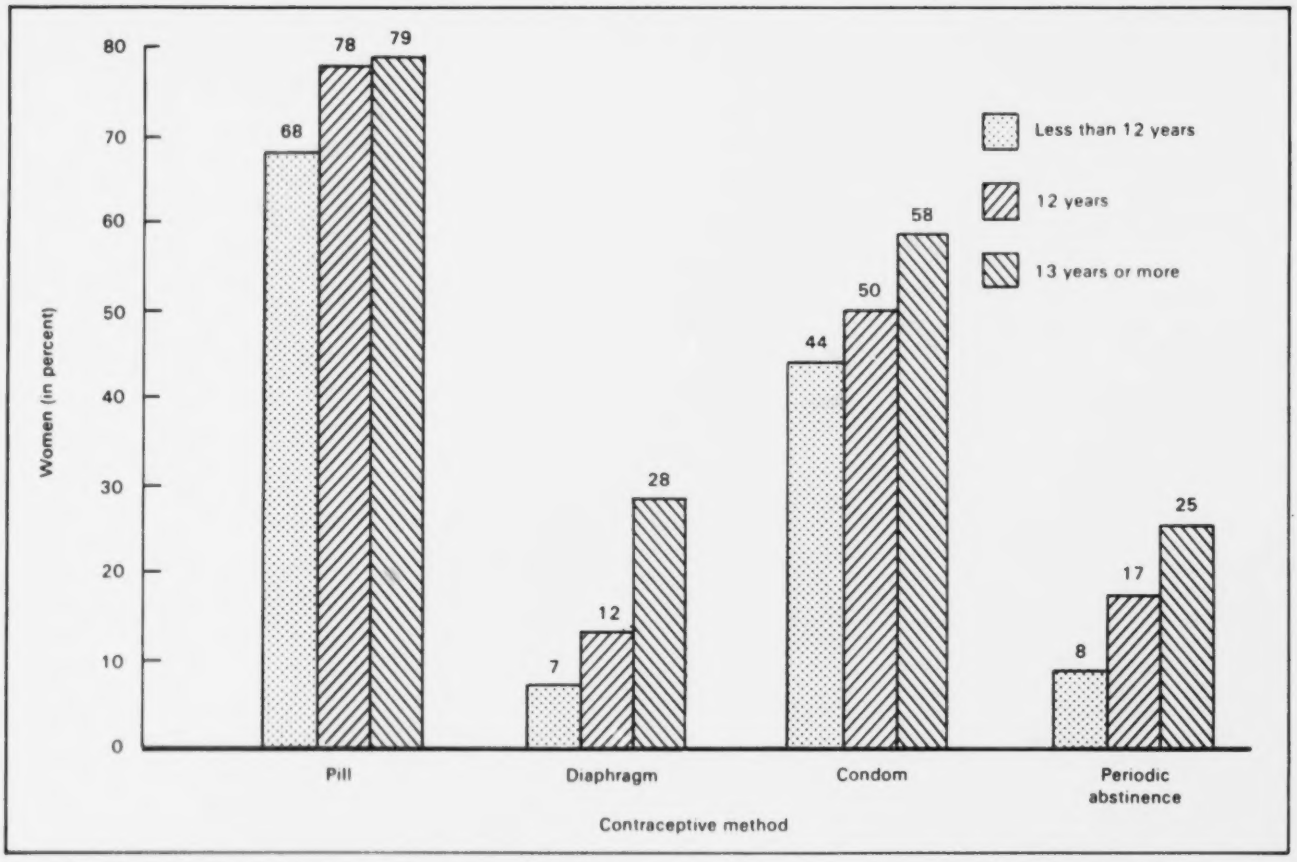

Figure 6. Percent of women 15–44 years of age who had ever had intercourse who had ever used selected methods, by education: United States, 1982

estant than Catholic women, and lower among those living in the Northeast than those living elsewhere. Although 66 percent have ever used the pill, only 16 percent are currently using it. Therefore, less than one in four ever users are still using the pill. The percent currently using the pill was lower among white than black women, and declined after age 20–24 years.

About one in three former users were told to stop using the pill by a doctor. This proportion increased with age, and, therefore, was higher for ever married than for never married women. This percent was also higher among black than white women.

Current contraceptive status and method

While ever use of contraception, as presented in tables 5 and 6, provides a gross measure of the population's effort to control fertility, current use or current contraceptive status, shown in tables 8–15, gives a more up-to-date view of the population's exposure to the risk of pregnancy at a given time (the month of interview) and the efforts it is making to reduce those risks by using contraception. Current contraceptive status has been the most common measure of contraceptive practice in previous research.[1,3,6,18,19]

Current contraceptive status classifies women into those who are using and not using contraception. For those who are not using, the reasons for nonuse include sterility, pregnancy, trying to become pregnant, and other nonuse. Among other nonusers, the reasons for not using contraception may include (*a*) for never married women, the woman has never had intercourse; (*b*) the woman has had intercourse, but not in the last 3 months; (*c*) the woman has had intercourse in the last 3 months, but is not currently having intercourse, is indifferent to the possibility of pregnancy, has a fecundity impairment and the chance of pregnancy is low, or has religious or personal objections to using contraception. Women who are using a method are classified by the method currently used; those using more than one method are classified as using the more effective method. For a more detailed discussion, see appendix II.

About 27 percent of all women 15–44 years of age were not exposed to the risk of pregnancy because of sterility in 1982, including 26 percent who were surgically sterile or married to sterile husbands (table 8). Of these 26 percent, 18 percent were contraceptively sterile and 8 percent surgically sterile for noncontraceptive reasons. An additional 5 percent were currently pregnant or post partum, and 4 percent were seeking pregnancy. Another 27 percent were not using contraception for other reasons, including 14 percent who had never had intercourse, 6 percent who had not had intercourse in the last 3 months, and 7 percent who had had intercourse but were not using a method.

An additional 37 percent were using methods other than sterilization; adding these to the 18 percent contraceptively sterile, about 55 percent were using some form of contracep-

tion. The leading methods in 1982 were sterilization and the pill (table 8): 6.4 million women were using female sterilization; 3.2 million, male sterilization; 8.4 million women were currently using the pill; 2.2 million, the IUD; and about 9.3 million were using other methods (figure 7).

The proportions of women who ever used a given method of contraception are necessarily equal to, or greater than, the proportion who currently used that method, with one exception—female sterilization. Aside from a very small number of surgical reversals, all women who have ever used female sterilization are also currently using it. However, women who ever used female sterilization for family planning as shown in tables 5 and 6 substantially exceed the number classified as currently using contraceptive female sterilization. This difference results from a different basis of classification. Ever users were those who identified female sterilization as a method they had used, from a card listing methods of "birth control or family planning." Current users were only those who answered affirmatively to the explicit, qualifying question, "Was one reason for the operation because you had all the children you wanted?" The effect of this difference was discussed in a recent paper,[20] and a further analysis is planned.

Black women of all marital statuses (table 8) were more likely than white women to have female contraceptive sterilization operations, to be using the pill, and to be having intercourse in the last 3 months and not using a method. White women, on the other hand, were much more likely than black women to be relying on male sterilization and more likely to have never had intercourse or to be using the diaphragm or the condom. When these comparisons are limited to currently married and formerly married women, they persist, but are not always statistically significant.

Hispanic women (or their current husbands) were less likely to be surgically sterile (18 percent) than non-Hispanic

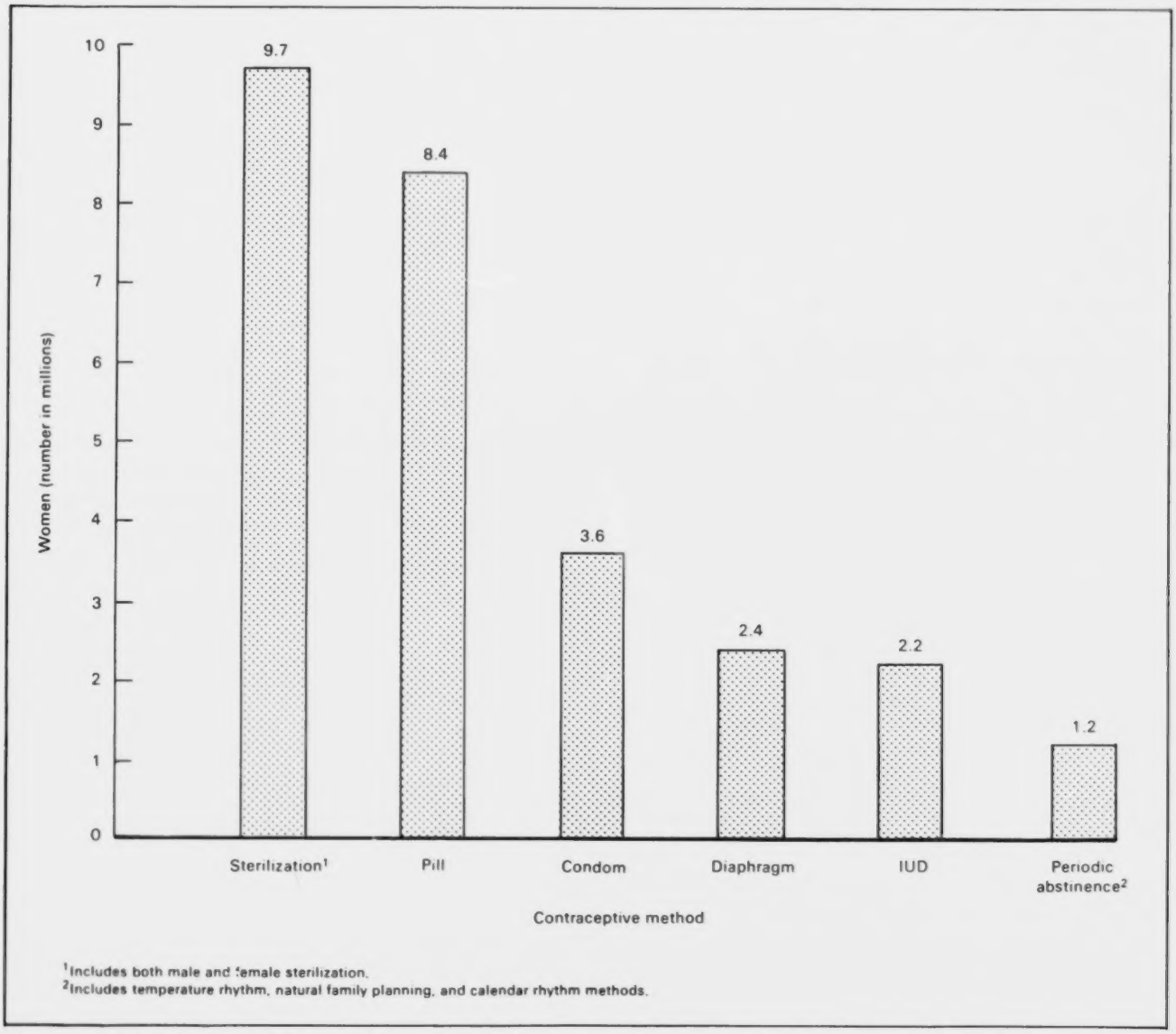

Figure 7. Number of women 15–44 years of age using specified methods of contraception at the date of interview: United States, 1982

women (26 percent) or their husbands. The difference in female sterilization between Hispanic and other women was small and not statistically significant, but the difference in male sterilization (2 versus 6 percent) was larger and was statistically significant. Hispanic and non-Hispanic women were about equally likely to use the pill, but Hispanic women were much more likely than others to be using the IUD (10 percent compared with 4 percent) and less likely to be using the diaphragm or condom than other women.

Contraceptive use among never married women

Table 9 presents data on the current contraceptive status of the 19 million never married women 15–44 years of age in the United States in 1982. This is the first cycle of the survey that obtained data from all never married women, so no data are available for previous years. Of these 19 million women, almost half (46 percent) were teenagers. About 38 percent of all never married women 15–44 years of age had never had intercourse, and an additional 11 percent had not had intercourse in the 3 months before interview. Thus about half were not having intercourse in the 3 months before interview. Few were sterile (3 percent), pregnant or post partum (3 percent), or seeking pregnancy (1 percent).

About one in three never married women (6.4 million) were using nonsurgical methods of contraception. More than half of these (3.6 million) were using the pill; the next leading method among never married women was the diaphragm, used by 0.9 million never married women.

Differences in contraceptive status by age among never married women were very large and tended to reflect the proportions in each age group who had never had intercourse, or had not had intercourse in the 3 months before the interview. For example, the proportion who never had intercourse was 70 percent for women 15–17 years of age and 23 percent for those 20–44 years of age. Reflecting these differences, never married teenagers were less likely than older never married women to be using a method of contraception, or to be using the pill, IUD, or diaphragm in particular.

Table C is limited to women at risk of unintended pregnancy. This allows a comparison of contraceptive use without the disturbing effects of the sharply different percents who had never had intercourse. Among women at risk, 78 percent were using a method. The difference by age found among all never married women (table 9) was also found when limited to those at risk: Teenage women at risk were still less likely to use a method (69 percent) than women 20–44 years of age at risk (82 percent).

Method choices of contracepting never married women also differed by age when limited to those at risk (table C). The pattern differs somewhat from that in table 9, in that contraceptors aged 15–19 years were more likely than older contraceptors to use the pill. However, using either measure (tables C and 9), older contraceptors were more likely to use the diaphragm, IUD, or sterilization.

Among never married women, black women were much more likely to be currently at risk of pregnancy than white women (table 9). Black women were much more likely than white women to have ever had intercourse (80 and 58 percent, respectively) and more likely to have had intercourse in the 3 months before the interview (73 and 46 percent, respectively). However, black never married women were also more likely to

Table C. Number of never married women 15–44 years of age who were exposed to the risk of an unintended pregnancy, percent using a method of contraception, and percent distribution by method used, according to race and age: United States, 1982

Race and age	Women exposed[1]	Contraceptors	Contraceptive method: All methods	Sterilization	Pill	IUD	Diaphragm	Condom	Other methods[3]
All races[2]	Number in thousands	Percent	Percent distribution						
15–44 years	8,664	77.6	100.0	5.0	53.2	5.5	13.5	11.7	11.1
15–19 years	2,853	68.6	100.0	*0.4	62.3	*0.9	*6.4	22.2	*7.8
15–17 years	1,070	61.2	100.0	-	64.1	*1.2	*3.6	24.7	*6.4
20–44 years	5,810	82.1	100.0	6.9	49.5	7.3	16.4	7.4	12.5
White									
15–44 years	6,322	79.3	100.0	*3.0	51.7	*4.3	16.8	12.8	11.3
15–19 years	2,173	70.1	100.0	*0.6	59.7	*0.1	*7.7	24.5	*7.5
15–17 years	793	61.8	100.0	-	63.0	*0.3	*4.4	*28.2	*4.1
20–44 years	4,150	84.1	100.0	*4.1	48.2	*6.2	20.8	7.7	13.0
Black									
15–44 years	2,099	73.2	100.0	12.1	58.8	8.0	*2.6	8.0	10.5
15–19 years	617	64.3	100.0	-	71.0	*4.2	*2.0	*13.0	*9.9
15–17 years	252	59.0	100.0	-	65.1	*4.5	*1.5	*14.5	*14.3
20–44 years	1,482	76.9	100.0	16.3	54.5	9.4	*2.9	6.2	10.8

[1]Includes women using contraception and those not using contraception who had sexual intercourse in the last 3 months and were not pregnant, post partum, seeking pregnancy, or noncontraceptively sterile.
[2]Includes white, black, and other races.
[3]Includes foam, periodic abstinence, withdrawal, douche, suppositories, and other methods.

be surgically sterile (8 percent), whether for contraceptive or noncontraceptive reasons, than white never married women (1 percent). The use of nonsurgical contraception was also greater among black than among white women (38 and 33 percent, respectively). The comparatively greater use of contraception, both surgical and nonsurgical, among never married black women reflects their greater exposure to the risk of pregnancy. When the comparison is restricted only to those having intercourse in the 3 months before the interview, black women were actually less likely to be using contraception (73 percent) than white women (79 percent), although this difference was not statistically significant. Among never married contraceptors, the percents using a surgical or nonsurgical method are similar by race. Among never married contraceptors, white women were much more likely than black women to use the diaphragm (17 compared with 3 percent). Other differences by race in the percents using individual methods were not statistically significant, but overall, black women were more likely to use one of the more effective methods (pill, IUD, or sterilization): 79 percent compared with 58 percent.

Table D. Percent of women 15–44 years of age using contraception and percent distribution by current method of contraception, according to marital status: United States, 1982

Current contraceptive method	*Total*	*Never married*	*Currently married*	*Widowed, divorced, or separated*
		Percent of women		
Contraceptors	54.5	35.1	68.0	53.5
		Percent distribution		
Contraceptors	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Female sterilization	21.9	3.3	25.6	37.0
Male sterilization	10.8	*1.8	15.4	*3.5
Pill	28.6	53.2	19.8	29.5
IUD	7.3	5.5	7.1	12.0
Diaphragm	8.3	13.5	6.7	*6.9
Condom	12.2	11.7	14.4	*1.6
Other methods[1]	10.9	11.1	11.1	9.6

[1]Includes foam, periodic abstinence, withdrawal, douche, and other methods.

Contraceptive use among ever married women

Compared with that of never married women, the contraceptive status and method choices of currently and formerly married women differed sharply (tables 8, 9, and D, and figure 8). About 35 percent of never married, 54 percent of previously married, and 68 percent of currently married women were currently using a method (table D). These differences reflect large differences by marital status in the proportion of women who were at risk of pregnancy: 45 percent of never married, 64 percent of previously married, and 73 percent of currently married women (calculated from tables 8 and 9).

As is seen in table 9, the main reasons for nonexposure among never married women were never having had intercourse and not having intercourse in the 3 months before the interview. The main reasons for nonexposure among currently married women (table 8) were noncontraceptive sterility, being

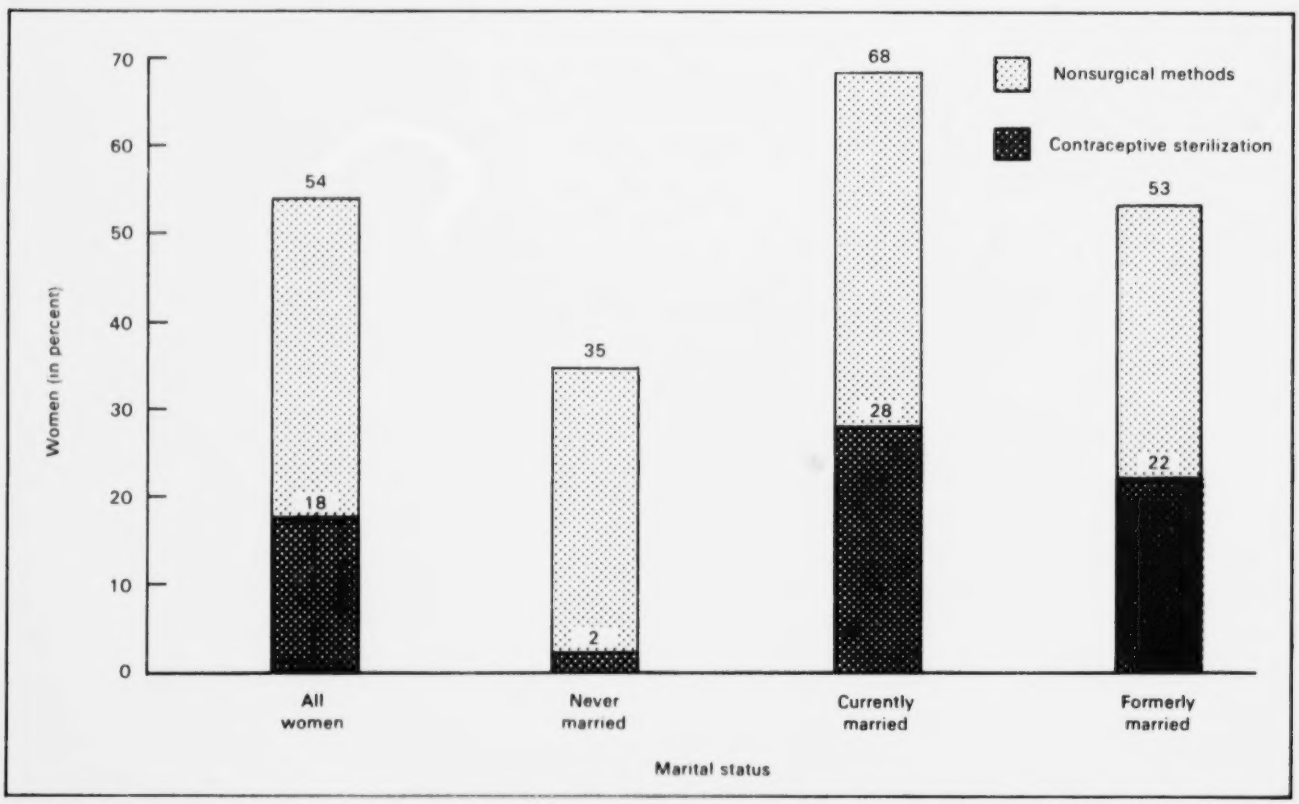

Figure 8. Percent of women 15–44 years of age who were currently using contraception by whether sterilization or nonsurgical and marital status: United States, 1982

pregnant or post partum, and seeking pregnancy. Among previously married women the main reasons for nonexposure were noncontraceptive sterility and not having had intercourse in the 3 months before the interview.

When the comparison is limited to those at risk of unintended pregnancy, 78 percent of never married, 87 percent of previously married, and 93 percent of currently married women were using a method during the month of interview (table C, and calculated from tables 8 and 9).

The percents of unmarried women (never or previously married) who were currently using contraception are lower partly because they were less likely to be having intercourse in the last 3 months. However, many unmarried women have intercourse sporadically, so that if the comparison is further restricted to those having intercourse in the month of interview, then the proportions using a method increase to 87 percent of never married, 89 percent of previously married, and 94 percent of currently married women. In other words, when only those currently at risk are examined, the differences by marital status in the percent using a method narrow considerably, but do not disappear entirely.

To show method preference among women using contraception (including contraceptive sterilization) apart from the propensity to use contraception at all, table D contains the percent distribution of women using contraception by method used. These percents are not affected by the differences in the proportion not using any method.

Over half of all never married contraceptors (53 percent) were currently using the pill in 1982, compared with 30 percent of formerly married and 20 percent of currently married women (table D and figure 9). The pill, diaphragm, and condom accounted for about four out of five of all never married contraceptors. In sharp contrast, sterilization was the leading method among currently and formerly married women, accounting for about two out of five contraceptors in each group. Among currently married and formerly married women, female sterilization alone was the leading method (figure 9). The pill was the second leading method in both groups. Factors explaining the differences in contraceptive choice by marital status may include age, parity, intent to have—or not have—future children, number of partners, and frequency of intercourse.

Trends and differentials among married couples, 1965–82

Contraceptive method choice among married couples using contraception changed dramatically between 1965 and 1982, although the changes in the percents using some method (contraceptive status) were relatively small, and many were not significant. The profound changes in method choice can be examined using data from all three cycles of the NSFG and the 1965 National Fertility Survey. The data for 1982 in tables 10 and 11, and in table E for 1965, 1973, 1976, and 1982 are comparable to data in a previous NSFG report.[6] In 1982, as in earlier years, both contraceptive status and method choice differed from one population subgroup to another. The contraceptive status of married couples is shown only for 1982 (table 10) because the changes in these categories were very small, and generally not statistically significant.

Differentials in contraceptive status—Because younger couples were less likely to have had all the children they in-

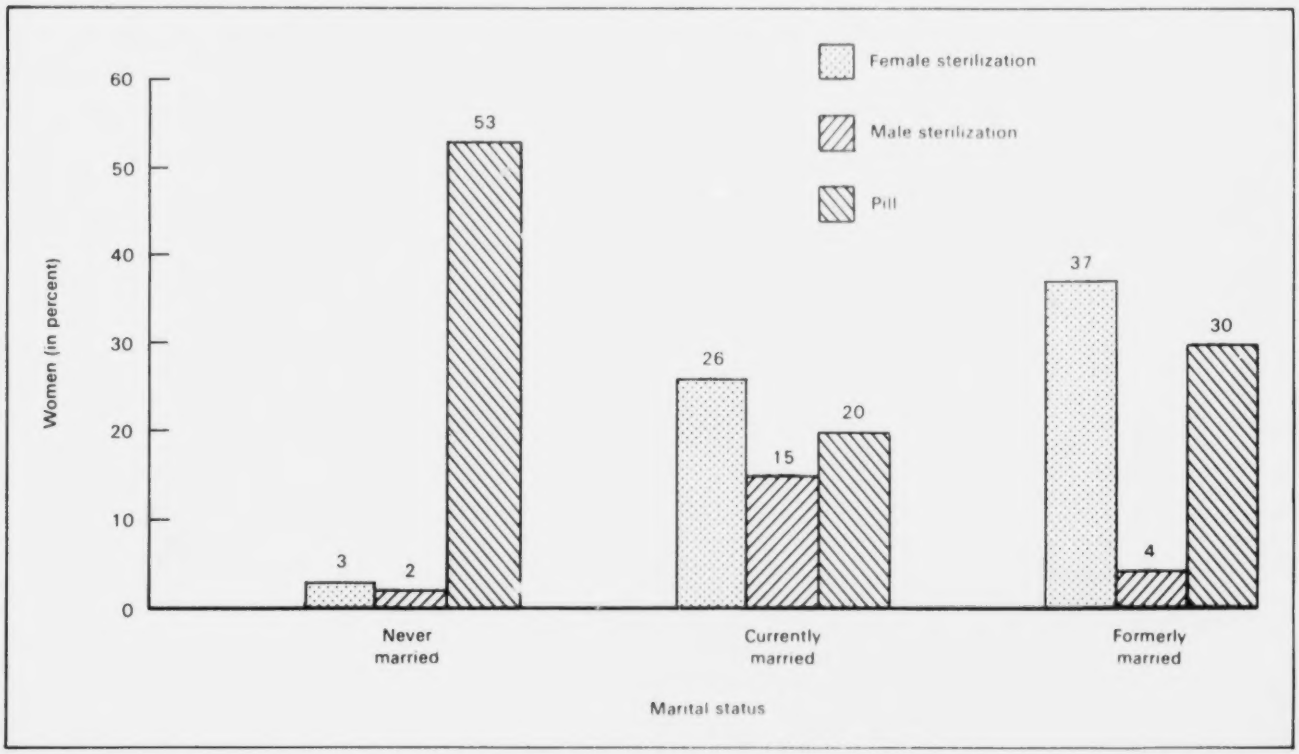

Figure 9. Percent of contraceptors 15–44 years of age using male and female sterilization and the pill, by marital status: United States, 1982

Table E. Percent distribution of currently married women 15–44 years of age using contraception by method of contraception, according to age, intent, and race: United States, 1965–82

Age, intent, and race	Total	Method of contraception						
		Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Pill	IUD	Diaphragm	Condom	Other methods
AGE								
15–44 years				Percent distribution				
1982	100.0	25.6	15.4	19.8	7.1	6.7	14.4	11.1
1976	100.0	14.1	13.3	33.2	9.3	4.2	10.8	15.1
1973	100.0	12.3	11.2	36.1	9.6	3.4	13.5	13.9
1965	100.0	7.2	5.2	23.9	*1.2	9.9	22.0	30.6
15–29 years								
1982	100.0	11.0	6.4	40.5	7.2	9.0	14.2	11.8
1976	100.0	6.3	5.5	51.0	10.5	3.9	9.6	13.2
1973	100.0	5.9	5.3	53.6	12.0	2.5	10.0	10.7
1965	100.0	3.2	2.9	41.3	1.8	6.2	19.3	25.3
30–44 years								
1982	100.0	35.0	21.2	6.4	7.0	5.2	14.6	10.6
1976	100.0	20.8	20.0	18.0	8.4	4.6	11.7	16.5
1973	100.0	17.7	16.1	21.4	7.6	4.2	16.4	16.6
1965	100.0	9.8	6.6	12.7	0.8	12.2	23.8	34.1
INTENT TO HAVE (MORE) CHILDREN								
Intends no more children								
1982	100.0	38.2	23.0	9.2	6.0	3.1	12.3	8.2
1976	100.0	21.9	20.7	22.0	8.4	3.3	10.6	13.1
1973	100.0	18.7	16.9	25.3	7.9	3.5	13.8	13.9
1965	100.0	10.2	7.3	19.5	1.2	11.3	22.4	28.1
Intends more children								
1982	100.0	...	...	44.6	6.8	15.4	18.4	14.9
1976	100.0	...	...	55.8	10.0	6.4	10.8	17.0
1973	100.0	...	...	61.1	10.1	3.7	12.6	12.5
1965	100.0	...	...	38.1	*1.4	5.8	19.1	35.6
RACE								
White								
1982	100.0	24.7	16.2	19.5	7.0	6.8	14.8	11.0
1976	100.0	13.9	14.2	32.9	9.2	4.4	10.9	14.5
1973	100.0	11.6	11.9	35.6	9.4	3.6	14.1	13.8
1965	100.0	6.5	5.5	24.0	*1.1	10.4	22.4	30.1
Black								
1982	100.0	34.4	3.6	25.5	9.6	5.4	7.1	14.4
1976	100.0	18.7	*3.0	38.0	10.6	*3.0	7.9	18.8
1973	100.0	22.7	*1.7	43.8	12.7	*2.0	5.3	5.3
1965	100.0	15.3	*0.6	21.6	2.8	5.0	17.4	37.3

tended, couples aged 15–29 years in 1982 were more likely to be pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy and less likely to be noncontraceptively sterile than those aged 30–44 years. The percent using contraception was not significantly different in the two age groups. Black wives were less likely in 1982 to be using contraception and more likely to be "other nonusers" than were white wives; these facts are consistent with findings in previous surveys since 1965.[6]

The data suggest that couples who intended no more children in 1982 were more likely to use contraception than those who intended more (70 compared with 63 percent). Because they were still having their families, couples who intended more were more likely to be pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy than those who intended no more children and (by definition) none were noncontraceptively sterile.

Analogous differences are observed among couples as the years since first marriage increase: As couples are married longer, as their age increases, and as they have the children they intend, the proportion pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy decreases, and the proportion noncontraceptively sterile increases.

Trends in method choice—By 1982, female sterilization was the leading method overall and for couples with wives aged 30–44 years; but the pill was still the leading method among younger couples (figure 10). This pattern, however, had changed dramatically since 1965. The percent of married contraceptors

using female sterilization more than tripled between 1965 and 1982, from 7 percent in 1965 to 12 percent in 1973 and 26 percent in 1982 (table E and figure 11). Much of the increase in female sterilization occurred between 1976 and 1982 (from 14 to 26 percent). Male sterilization also increased during the years 1965–82, but very little of this rise occurred between 1976 and 1982 (13 to 15 percent). The proportion using the pill increased by half from 1965 to 1973, from 24 to 36 percent, but plummeted to 20 percent by 1982, below its 1965 level (figure 11). By 1982, female sterilization had become the leading method of contraception among married couples, used by 26 percent. It was followed by the pill (20 percent), male sterilization (15 percent), and the condom (14 percent).

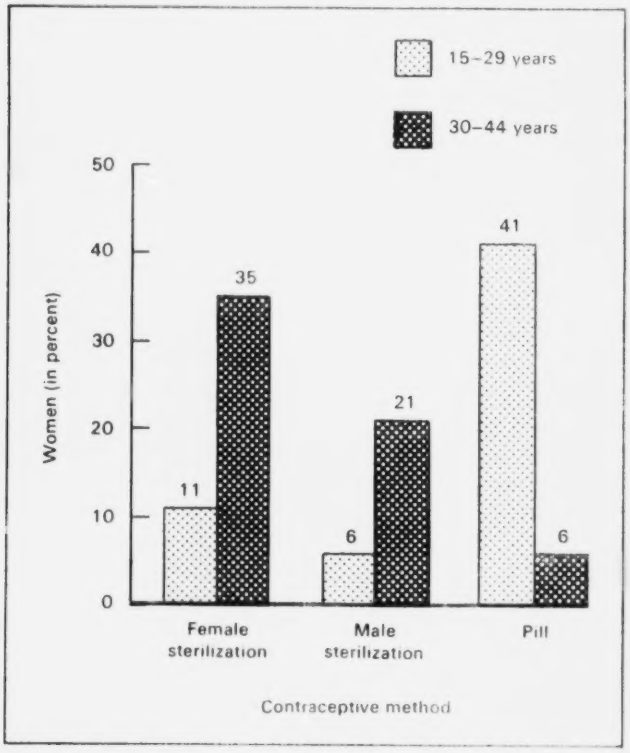

Figure 10. Percent of currently married contraceptors 15–44 years of age using specified methods of contraception, by age: United States, 1982

Intent—The pill was the leading method among couples intending more children in all four survey years, but the proportion dropped by one-fourth—from 61 percent in 1973 to 45 percent in 1982. In these same years, however, the proportion of contraceptors intending more births who were using the diaphragm increased from 4 percent in 1973 to 15 percent in 1982. In 1965, the diaphragm typically was used to terminate childbearing; in 1982 it was usually used to delay future births. Between 1973 and 1982, the proportion of contraceptors intending more births who were using the condom increased from 13 to 18 percent.

Among couples who intended no more children, the leading methods by 1982 were female sterilization, used by 38 percent, and male sterilization, used by 23 percent. The percent using female sterilization nearly doubled since 1976, from 22 to 38 percent, while there was no significant increase in male sterilization since 1976. Overall, 61 percent of couples intending no more births in 1982 were using sterilization, compared with only 18 percent in 1965.

Age—Among wives aged 15–29 years, the leading method in all four survey years was the pill, but over 50 percent were using it in 1973 and 1976, compared with about 41 percent in 1965 and 1982. While the proportion of wives aged 15–29 years using the pill dropped in this group from 1976 to 1982, the proportion using the condom, diaphragm, and female sterilization increased.

Among couples aged 30–44 years, the percent using female sterilization increased more than threefold, from 10 to 35 percent, between 1965 and 1982. Much of this increase occurred since 1976. Although male sterilization also tripled (from 7 to 21 percent) between 1965 and 1982, little if any of this increase occurred between 1976 and 1982. The proportion of wives aged 30–44 years using the pill dropped by about two-thirds, from 18 to 6 percent, from 1976 to 1982. Although the

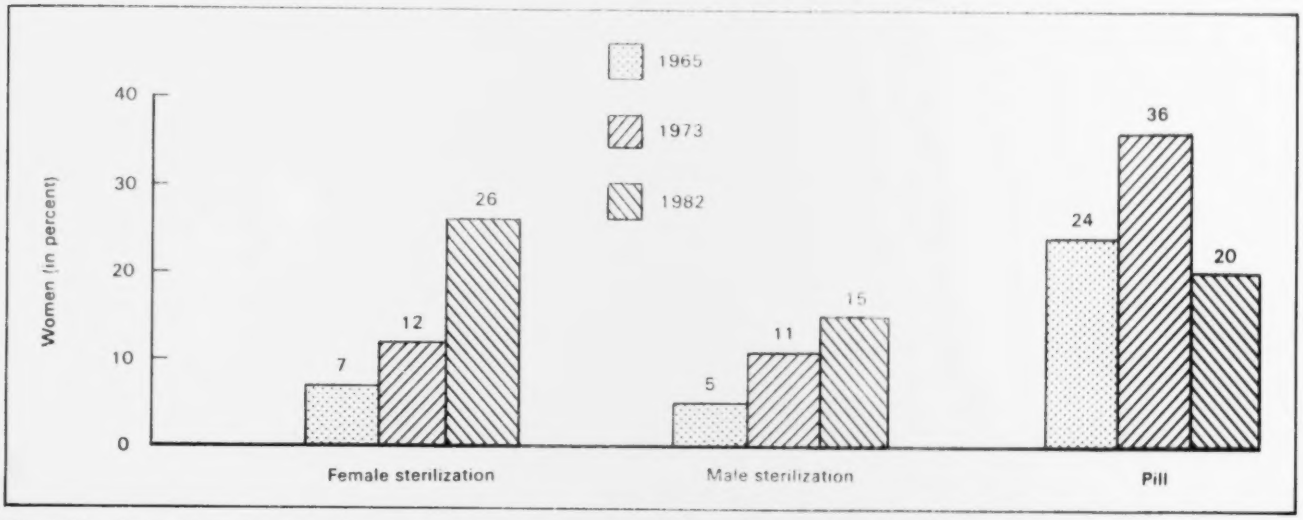

Figure 11. Percent of currently married contraceptors 15–44 years of age using selected methods: United States, 1965, 1973, and 1982

percent using the diaphragm increased among younger women, there was no significant change between 1976 and 1982 among older couples. These differences by age reflect the fact that couples with wives over 30 years are less likely to intend to have more children, and, therefore, are more likely to choose permanent, or surgical, methods of contraception.

Race, intent, and duration of marriage—The contraceptive practice of white couples and black couples differed sharply in each survey year. The percent using female sterilization was higher for black couples in each survey year, and the proportion using male sterilization was lower. Among white couples, both male and female sterilization increased considerably between 1965 and 1982, but among black couples the increase in male sterilization was very small (1 to 4 percent). The 19-percentage-point rise in female sterilization among black couples, from 15 to 34 percent, was as large as the 18-percentage-point rise among white couples (from 7 to 25 percent). By 1982, about 1 in 10 sterilizations to black couples were to males, compared with about 4 in 10 among white couples. The proportion of contraceptors using the pill has been higher for black than white couples since 1973, and the percent using the condom was lower for black than white couples in each survey year.

Because couples over 30 years of age are more likely to intend no more children, couples aged 30–44 years were more likely than couples aged 15–29 years to use female and male sterilization and less likely to use the pill in all four survey years[6] (table 11). The same is true when wives married 15 years or more are compared with those married less than 5 years before the interview. Wives intending to have more births were much more likely to be using the diaphragm in 1982 (15 percent) than wives who did not intend to have more births (3 percent). Similarly, 13 percent of women married less than 5 years were using the diaphragm, compared with only 3 percent of those married 15 years or more. Differentials in other barrier methods by intent were less dramatic.

Education—The percent using female sterilization appears to be higher for women with less than 12 years of school (34 percent) than for women with 13 years or more (22 percent). The percent using male sterilization appears to be lower for those with less education (10 percent) than for those with 13 years or more (15 percent). The proportion using the pill was lower for those in the highest education group than for those in the other two groups. In 1982, use of the diaphragm was largely confined to women with some college education: The percent using the diaphragm was 12 percent in that group, but 2–3 percent in the other two groups.

Religious affiliation—The percent using female sterilization and the pill appeared to be higher among Protestant than Catholic couples, although neither difference was statistically significant. The percent using the condom appeared to be higher among Catholic couples, and the proportion using periodic abstinence was significantly higher for Catholic than for Protestant couples.

Use of nonsurgical methods: 1976 and 1982

Women using methods other than sterilization are those most in need of continuing family planning services, those most likely to change methods, and those most at continued risk of contraceptive failure. For these and other reasons, it is often useful to examine trends and differences in contraceptive practice separately among those using sterilization and those using temporary, or nonsurgical, methods (tables 12, 13, F, and G).

The percent using nonsurgical methods of contraception decreased 9 percentage points, from 49 percent in 1976 to 40 percent in 1982 (table F). Contraceptive sterilization (either male or female) increased by 9 percentage points between 1976 and 1982, from 19 to 28 percent. Therefore, the percent not using contraception was unchanged, at 32 percent in both years. Thus, the proportion of married couples using contraception was about the same in 1976 and 1982, but the proportion using contraceptive sterilization was much higher in 1982.

Table F. Percent distribution of currently married women 15–44 years of age by contraceptive status, according to race, Hispanic origin, and parity: United States, 1976 and 1982

Race, Hispanic origin, and parity	Total	*Contraceptively sterile*		*Nonsurgical contraceptors*		*All noncontraceptors*	
		1982	*1976*	*1982*	*1976*	*1982*	*1976*
	Percent distribution						
All women	100.0	27.8	18.6	40.1	49.2	32.0	32.3
Race							
White	100.0	28.2	19.3	40.7	49.5	31.2	31.2
Black	100.0	23.1	12.7	37.7	45.9	39.2	41.4
Hispanic origin							
Hispanic	100.0	20.8	10.7	43.3	48.6	35.9	40.5
Non-Hispanic	100.0	28.5	19.1	39.8	49.1	31.7	31.8
Parity							
0–1 births	100.0	8.1	2.7	49.1	56.1	42.9	41.2
2–4 births	100.0	40.9	27.1	34.4	47.2	24.7	25.7
5 births or more	100.0	33.5	40.3	35.2	27.9	31.3	31.8

Source of 1976 data: National Center for Health Statistics, W. D. Mosher: Contraceptive utilization: United States, 1976. *Vital and Health Statistics*. Series 23, No. 7. DHHS Pub. No. (PHS) 81–1983. Public Health Service. Washington. U.S. Government Printing Office, Mar. 1981.

The increase in contraceptive sterilization occurred among both white and black couples, among both Hispanic and non-Hispanic couples, and was greatest among couples with 2–4 children. Within the race, origin, and parity groups in table F, there were no statistically significant changes in the percent of couples who were not using contraception.

Differentials in contraceptive status—In 1982, as in previous years, the contraceptive status of married couples varied markedly with age[19] (table 12). The percent contraceptively sterile increased with age, from zero among married teenagers to 46 percent among couples with wives ages 40–44 years. The percent using nonsurgical methods decreased sharply after ages 20–24 years, from 59 percent to only 22 percent at ages 40–44 years. The proportion noncontraceptively sterile increased with age, and the percent pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy decreased with age. The proportion who were not using contraception for other reasons ("other nonusers") did not change significantly with age.

Black wives were more likely to be other nonusers than white wives (10 versus 5 percent) and more likely to be nonusers of contraception in general (39 versus 31 percent). None of the differences between Hispanic and other wives was statistically significant, but they were consistent with findings from previous surveys.[19] Hispanic couples appeared to be less likely to use contraceptive sterilization and more likely to be pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy than other women. Although none of the differences by religious affiliation was statistically significant, they also were consistent with previous findings.[19] It appeared that Catholic couples were less likely than Protestant couples to be contraceptively sterile.

The differences by parity, however, were large and significant, because they indicate couples who are at different stages of family growth. Wives with 2–4 births (most of whom had had all the births they intended to have) were five times more likely to be contraceptively sterile, less likely to be using nonsurgical methods of contraception, and only one-fourth as likely to be pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy than wives with zero or one birth.

Nonsurgical method choice—As noted above, couples using temporary contraception are often in need of continuing family planning services, may be at risk of contraceptive failure, and may change methods. It is, therefore, useful to view contraceptive patterns among those who are using methods other than sterilization (table G). The proportion of married nonsurgical contraceptors using the pill dropped by 12 percentage points, from 46 percent in 1976 to 34 percent in 1982. The proportion using the diaphragm increased, from 6 to 11 percent, and those using the condom increased from 15 to 24 percent in those years.

The decrease in the percent using the pill was 13 percentage points for white couples and only 8 percentage points for black couples. There was no significant increase in the percent of black couples using the condom between 1976 and 1982, but an increase of 10 percentage points occurred among white couples. The decrease in the use of the pill and the increases in the use of the condom and diaphragm did not occur among Hispanics; there were no significant changes in method preference in this group.

Some of the trends and differences in method preference by region were dramatic. For example, the proportion of non-

Table G. Percent distribution of currently married women 15–44 years of age using contraceptives other than sterilization by current method, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1976 and 1982

Characteristic	Total	Contraceptive method							
		Pill		Diaphragm		Condom		All other	
		1982	1976	1982	1976	1982	1976	1982	1976
		Percent distribution							
All women[1]	100.0	33.5	45.8	11.3	5.9	24.4	14.8	30.8	33.5
Race									
White	100.0	32.9	45.7	11.5	6.1	25.0	15.1	30.6	33.1
Black	100.0	41.1	48.5	8.6	3.8	11.4	10.0	38.9	37.7
Hispanic origin									
Hispanic	100.0	42.7	41.9	*4.8	*4.9	*13.8	12.4	38.7	40.8
Non-Hispanic	100.0	32.6	45.9	11.9	5.9	25.4	15.0	30.1	33.2
Region									
Northeast	100.0	*14.6	32.3	20.3	9.9	32.8	19.2	32.3	38.6
North Central	100.0	37.2	50.5	*8.6	5.9	23.2	13.7	31.0	29.9
South	100.0	44.2	50.9	*6.0	2.8	21.5	14.8	28.3	31.5
West	100.0	31.9	45.4	*13.5	6.6	21.4	10.9	33.2	37.1
Education									
Less than 12 years	100.0	38.5	50.0	*3.4	*3.1	22.4	12.1	35.7	34.8
12 years	100.0	42.2	47.1	*5.8	4.2	20.6	15.0	31.4	33.7
13 years or more	100.0	24.0	41.7	18.8	9.5	28.6	16.0	50.2	32.8

[1]Includes white, black, and other races.

surgical contraceptors using the pill dropped 17 percentage points in the Northeast, from 32 percent in 1976 to 15 percent in 1982. As a result, the percent using the pill in the Northeast was only half as high as in the West and one-third as high as in the South, where the figure was 44 percent (figure 12). The pill was not the leading nonsurgical method in the Northeast—in fact, both the condom (used by 33 percent) and the diaphragm (20 percent) were used by more couples in the Northeast than the pill. In each of the other regions, the pill was used by far more couples than any other nonsurgical method. The decrease in the use of the pill was largest among wives with 13 years or more of education (18 percentage points). The increase in use of the diaphragm was also largest in this group.

Differentials in method choice—In 1982 (table 13) the proportion of nonsurgical contraceptors using the pill decreased sharply with age, from 72 percent of married teenagers to 4 percent of wives ages 40–44 years. Black wives were apparently more likely to be using the pill than white wives (41 compared with 33 percent, figure 12), although the difference was not statistically significant. Black wives were substantially less likely to be using the condom (11 percent) than white wives (25 percent).

None of the differences in method preference between Hispanic and non-Hispanic married nonsurgical contraceptors was significant, but some were consistent with other findings in this report and with previous surveys: For example, Hispanic women were apparently more likely to use the pill and the IUD, and less likely to use the diaphragm and condom, than other women.[19] The proportion using the pill was much lower, and the percent using the diaphragm was higher, in the Northeast than in any of the other regions. The percent using the pill was clearly higher among Protestant (40 percent) than Catholic couples (26 percent); and the data suggest that the percent using periodic abstinence was higher among Catholic (13 percent) than among Protestant couples (6 percent).

Contraceptive use among formerly married women

Data have been collected in all three cycles of the NSFG—in 1973, 1976, and 1982—on the contraceptive practice of widowed, divorced, and separated (or formerly married) women (tables H, 14, and 15). This is an important group, because their numbers increased by 86 percent between 1973 and 1982, from 3.6 million to 6.7 million, compared with an increase of only 6 percent for currently married women. The contraceptive status and method choice of these women was classified according to the same rules as for married women.

The percent contraceptively sterile increased just as sharply between 1976 and 1982 among formerly married women—from 14 to 22 percent, an increase of about half—as it did among currently married women (tables F and H). At the same time, the proportion using nonsurgical methods decreased, from 40 to 32 percent, and the proportion who were other nonusers decreased from 31 to 26 percent. The pill accounted for about half of all nonsurgical contraceptive use among formerly married women. Changes in other methods tended to be very small, except for an increase in the percent using the diaphragm, from 1 to 4 percent of all formerly married women and from 3 to 12 percent of nonsurgical contraceptors.

In 1982, there were few significant differences in contraceptive status between subgroups of formerly married women, primarily because of the relatively small sample size in Cycle III. However, many of the findings parallel those from earlier surveys and for currently married women.[19] Women who were older or had more children were more likely to be using contraceptive sterilization and less likely to be using nonsurgical

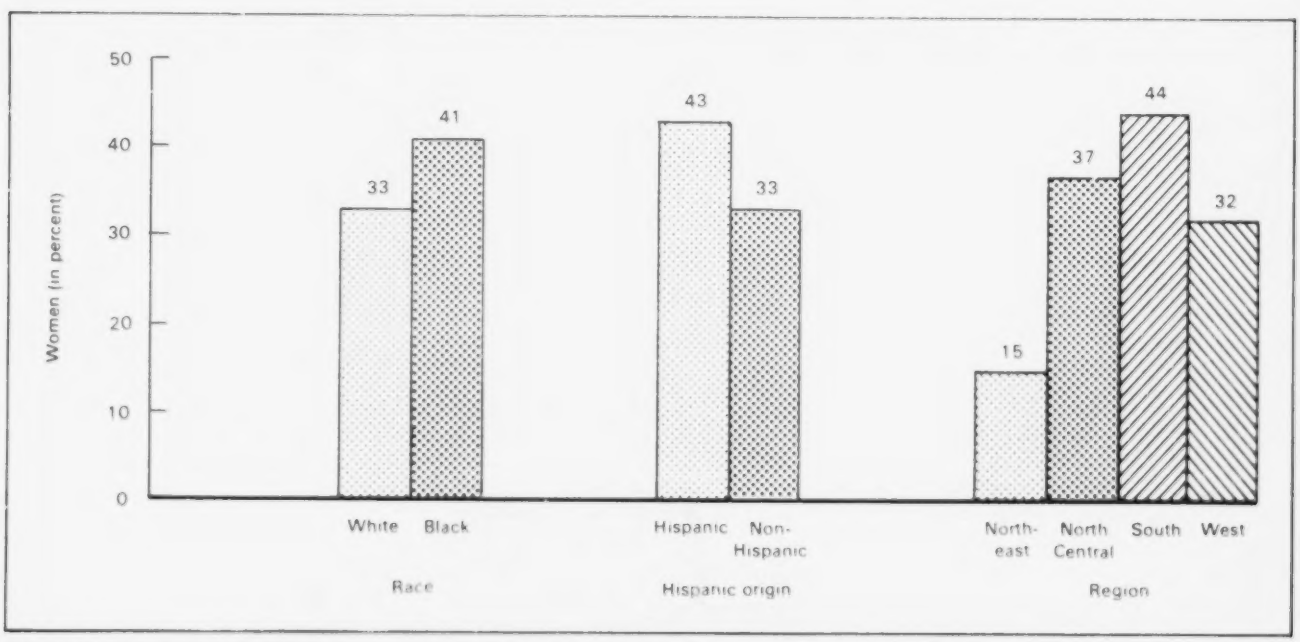

Figure 12. Percent of currently married nonsurgical contraceptors 15–44 years of age currently using the pill, by race, Hispanic origin, and region: United States, 1982

Table H. Number of widowed, divorced, and separated women 15–44 years of age and percent distribution by contraceptive status and method, according to race: United States, 1973, 1976, and 1982

Contraceptive status and method	All races[1]			White			Black		
	1982	1976	1973	1982	1976	1973	1982	1976	1973
	Number in thousands								
All women	6,704	4,359	3,601	5,224	3,134	2,546	1,310	1,145	1,028
	Percent distribution								
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All sterile women	38.0	27.7	21.4	36.8	26.6	20.3	41.5	30.5	24.4
Surgically sterile	36.1	25.5	20.9	35.0	24.8	19.9	39.2	27.7	23.5
Contraceptively sterile	21.6	13.7	12.3	20.2	13.1	11.1	27.9	15.2	15.3
Noncontraceptively sterile	14.5	11.7	8.4	14.8	11.7	8.6	11.3	12.5	8.2
Nonsurgically sterile	1.9	2.2	*0.5	1.8	1.8	*0.3	2.4	2.9	*0.9
Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy	4.6	1.7	2.9	3.8	1.3	2.3	7.2	2.9	4.5
Other nonuser	25.6	30.6	45.3	25.3	30.7	47.4	25.4	28.5	39.2
All methods	31.8	40.0	30.4	34.1	41.4	30.1	25.9	38.1	31.9
Pill	15.8	24.3	18.1	17.1	26.1	18.6	11.4	20.4	17.2
IUD	6.4	8.0	7.2	6.6	7.9	7.0	6.3	8.9	7.9
Diaphragm	3.7	1.2	1.3	4.4	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.2	*0.6
Condom	0.8	1.6	*0.9	0.8	1.8	1.1	0.9	1.5	*0.5
Foam	1.1	1.2	*0.7	1.1	1.0	*0.4	0.9	2.0	*1.6
Rhythm	1.4	1.0	*0.4	1.2	1.2	*0.4	2.1	0.6	*0.4
Withdrawal, douche, and other methods	2.7	2.6	1.8	2.7	2.3	1.1	2.8	3.7	3.6

[1]Includes white, black, and other races.

methods than those who were younger or had fewer than two children (tables 14, 15, and H).

None of the differences by race was statistically significant, but it appeared that black women were more likely to be contraceptively sterile; less likely to be nonsurgical contraceptors; and more likely to be pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy. These findings are all consistent with previous research.[19]

The differences by religious affiliation were not significant but are consistent with findings for currently married women: Formerly married Catholic women are less likely to use contraceptive sterilization or nonsurgical contraception, and more likely to be other nonusers, than Protestant women.[6,19]

When method preference among formerly married women using nonsurgical methods is examined (calculated from table H), a decrease is seen between 1976 and 1982 in the percent currently using the pill, from 61 to 50 percent. This decrease also occurred among white and black women separately. Among white nonsurgical contraceptors, the proportion using the diaphragm increased from 3 percent in 1976 to 13 percent in 1982; among black women, there was much less change.

Method choices of formerly married contraceptors differed significantly only by age and parity. Formerly married contraceptors aged 15–29 years were more likely to use the pill, and less likely to use the IUD than those aged 30–44 years. Those with fewer than two children were more likely to use the pill and less likely to use the IUD than formerly married women with two or more children (table 15).

Source of the current method

Methods that can only be obtained with a prescription must come originally from either a private medical service (private doctor, private group practice, or health maintenance organization) or a doctor at a clinic. About 27 percent of women using the pill first obtained the prescription from a clinic, which means that about 73 percent first obtained the prescription from a private doctor (table 16). Overall, the percent who obtained the pill, IUD, and diaphragm from a clinic did not differ significantly. However, there were wide variations by marital status, race, and age, because large percents of poor, black, and teenage women obtain contraceptive methods from clinics rather than private doctors.[2,21–24]

Black women were about twice as likely to obtain the pill or IUD from a clinic as white women. About 46 percent of black and 23 percent of white women first obtained their prescription for the pill from a clinic. About 47 percent of black and 26 percent of white women first obtained their IUD at a clinic.

By marital status, never married women were about twice as likely to obtain these methods at a clinic as were currently married women (40 compared with 18 percent). Never married women were about twice as likely to obtain the pill from a clinic (36 compared with 18 percent), about three times as likely to obtain their current IUD from a clinic (59 percent compared with 21 percent), and about three times as likely to obtain their diaphragm from a clinic (47 percent compared with 14) as were currently married women. Women 15–19 years of age were more likely to obtain each of these methods from clinics than older women.

These findings are consistent with other data from the NSFG on sources of family planning services,[2,21] which show that young, never married, and black women are more likely to visit clinics for their family planning services than are older, ever married, and white women. In turn, this fact may account in part for their substantial acceptance of these methods, as shown in the earlier sections of this report.

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List of detailed tables

1. Number of women 15–44 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse and percent who used a contraceptive method at first sexual intercourse, by age and selected characteristics: United States, 1982 23
2. Number of women 15–44 years of age who used a contraceptive method at first sexual intercourse and percent distribution by method used and selected characteristics: United States, 1982. 24
3. Number of women 15–44 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse, percent and number who have ever used a contraceptive method, and percent distribution by first method ever used, according to race, marital status, and age: United States, 1982 25
4. Number of women 15–44 years of age who have ever used a contraceptive method and percent distribution by first method ever used, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1982 27
5. Number of women 15–44 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse, percent who have ever used a contraceptive method, and percent who have ever used each method, by race, marital status, and age: United States, 1982 28
6. Number of women 15–44 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse and percent who have ever used each contraceptive method, by selected characteristics: United States, 1982. 30
7. Number of women 15–44 years of age, percent who have ever used the oral contraceptive pill, percent currently using it, number of former users, and percent who were told to stop using the pill by a doctor, by selected characteristics: United States, 1982 31
8. Number of women 15–44 years of age, and percent distribution by current contraceptive status and method, according to marital status, race, and Hispanic origin: United States, 1982. 32
9. Number of never married women 15–44 years of age and percent distribution by current contraceptive status and method, according to age and race: United States, 1982... 33
10. Number of currently married women 15–44 years of age and percent distribution by current contraceptive status, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1982... 34
11. Number of currently married women 15–44 years of age using contraceptives and percent distribution by method of contraception, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1982. 35
12. Number of currently married women 15–44 years of age and percent distribution by current contraceptive status, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1982... 36
13. Number of currently married women 15–44 years of age currently using contraceptives other than sterilization and percent distribution by method of contraception used, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1982 ... 37
14. Number of widowed, divorced, and separated women 15–44 years of age and percent distribution by contraceptive status, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1982... 39
15. Number of widowed, divorced, and separated women 15–44 years of age who were using contraceptives other than sterilization and percent distribution by method used, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1982 40
16. Number of women 15–44 years of age using selected methods of contraception and percent whose first source of the method was a clinic, by method, race, marital status, and age: United States, 1982 41

Table 1. Number of women 15–44 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse and percent who used a contraceptive method at first sexual intercourse, by age and selected characteristics: United States, 1982

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Characteristic	Ever had intercourse					Used contraception at first intercourse				
		15–24 years					15–24 years			
	15–44 years	Total	15–19 years	25–34 years	35–44 years	15–44 years	Total	15–19 years	25–34 years	35–44 years
	Number in thousands					Percent				
All women[1]	46,684	13,547	4,467	19,118	14,019	44.5	48.8	48.2	44.5	40.3
Race										
White	39,031	11,992	3,512	16,084	11,954	46.6	52.0	52.1	46.6	41.5
Black	6,263	2,207	835	2,446	1,610	33.6	34.5	36.0	33.1	33.1
Hispanic origin										
Hispanic	3,713	1,064	442	1,677	972	24.7	26.5	22.9	23.4	24.9
Non-Hispanic	42,970	12,483	4,025	17,441	13,046	46.2	50.7	50.9	46.5	41.5
Marital status[2]										
Never married	11,749	8,047	3,785	3,122	580	50.1	52.8	50.7	44.6	43.3
Currently married	28,231	4,741	612	12,924	10,566	44.8	43.9	35.6	47.2	42.3
Widowed, divorced, or separated	6,704	759	70	3,072	2,873	33.2	37.5	21.6	32.8	32.5
Education[2]										
Less than 12 years	9,668	4,102	2,398	3,043	2,523	26.3	32.1	35.3	21.7	22.5
12 years	18,557	5,376	1,539	7,353	5,828	44.5	52.6	65.2	43.6	38.1
13 years or more	18,459	4,068	530	8,722	5,668	54.0	60.7	57.2	53.1	50.5
Religion[2]										
Protestant	27,458	7,830	2,615	11,009	8,619	44.7	44.8	47.2	47.4	41.1
Catholic	14,395	4,386	1,370	6,051	3,957	42.6	53.8	49.1	40.3	33.6
Poverty level income[2]										
149 percent or less	11,931	5,313	2,081	4,263	2,355	34.1	39.7	38.4	30.4	28.4
150 percent or more	34,753	8,234	2,386	14,855	11,664	48.0	54.7	56.7	48.5	42.7
300 percent or more	20,386	4,365	1,257	8,593	7,427	51.4	59.1	58.6	49.6	49.0
Living arrangements at age 14 years										
Living with both parents	34,921	9,590	2,601	14,273	11,058	46.6	52.1	51.1	46.8	41.6
Living with 1 or neither parent	11,763	3,957	1,866	4,844	2,961	38.1	40.8	44.1	37.7	35.3
Age at first intercourse										
17 years and under	21,695	9,172	4,034	8,095	4,429	40.6	45.5	47.4	38.6	34.4
18 years and over	24,989	4,375	433	11,023	9,590	47.8	55.9	54.9	48.8	43.1

[1]Includes white, black, and other races; Protestant, Catholic, other religions, and no religion.
[2]Denotes characteristics at date of interview, not at first intercourse.

Table 2. Number of women 15–44 years of age who used a contraceptive method at first sexual intercourse and percent distribution by method used and selected characteristics: United States, 1982

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Characteristic	Total	Contraceptive method											
		All methods	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Pill	IUD	Diaphragm	Condom	Foam	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Douche	Other methods
RACE AND AGE													
All races[1]	Number in thousands	Percent distribution											
15–44 years	20,766	100.0	*0.2	*0.3	28.2	*0.5	1.9	38.5	3.8	5.3	19.1	*1.0	1.2
15–24 years	6,615	100.0	-	*0.6	25.1	*0.2	*0.9	39.2	*1.6	6.0	25.1	0.5	0.9
15–19 years	2,152	100.0	-	*1.4	17.3	*0.1	*0.2	46.6	*0.5	*4.3	27.2	*0.8	*1.8
25–34 years	8,501	100.0	0.0	*0.1	34.4	*1.0	*1.0	33.9	5.2	4.4	18.3	*0.7	*1.0
35–44 years	5,650	100.0	0.5	*0.2	22.3	*0.2	4.5	44.7	4.3	5.9	13.2	*2.1	*2.0
White													
15–44 years	18,172	100.0	*0.2	*0.3	28.0	*0.6	2.1	37.4	3.6	5.5	20.6	*0.7	*1.1
15–24 years	5,720	100.0	-	*0.7	23.5	*0.2	*1.0	38.8	*1.3	6.0	27.3	*0.4	*0.8
15–19 years	1,830	100.0	-	*1.7	15.4	-	*0.3	45.3	*0.5	*4.6	29.8	*0.5	*1.9
25–34 years	7,494	100.0	-	*0.1	34.4	*1.1	*1.0	32.7	5.1	4.6	19.8	*0.4	*0.9
35–44 years	4,958	100.0	*0.6	*0.2	23.2	*0.2	4.9	43.0	*4.1	6.2	14.1	*1.4	*2.0
Black													
15–44 years	2,104	100.0	*0.1	-	28.9	*0.2	*1.1	46.9	5.1	*2.9	8.3	4.0	*2.4
15–24 years	761	100.0	-	-	38.4	*0.2	*0.9	41.1	*1.4	*2.1	12.8	*1.1	*2.1
15–19 years	301	100.0	-	-	29.2	*0.4	-	52.1	*0.7	*2.3	*12.9	*1.1	*1.3
25–34 years	810	100.0	*0.3	-	32.4	*0.2	*0.9	43.2	*7.6	*2.6	*7.3	*3.5	*2.0
35–44 years	533	100.0	-	-	*10.2	*0.4	*1.7	60.8	*6.7	*4.6	*3.4	*8.9	*3.3
AGE AT FIRST INTERCOURSE													
17 years and under	8,816	100.0	0.0	*0.1	19.8	0.0	*0.7	43.6	2.7	4.1	26.0	*1.7	*1.3
18 years and over	11,950	100.0	*0.3	*0.4	34.3	*0.9	2.8	34.8	4.6	6.2	13.9	*0.5	*1.2
MARITAL STATUS[2]													
Never married	5,891	100.0	0.0	*0.8	21.8	*0.3	*0.4	40.9	*2.0	7.0	25.1	*0.8	*0.9
Currently married	12,649	100.0	*0.2	*0.1	32.1	*0.7	2.7	37.1	4.3	4.7	15.6	*1.1	*1.3
Widowed, divorced, or separated	2,226	100.0	-	-	22.5	0.0	*1.7	40.4	5.8	4.1	22.7	*1.1	*1.7

[1] Includes white, black, and other races.
[2] Denotes marital status at date of interview, not at first intercourse.

Table 3. Number of women 15–44 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse, percent and number who have ever used a contraceptive method, and percent distribution by first method ever used, according to race, marital status, and age: United States, 1982

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Race, marital status, and age	Total	Ever contraceptors		First contraceptive method										
				All methods	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Pill	IUD	Diaphragm	Condom	Foam	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Douche	Other methods
RACE AND AGE	Number in thousands	Percent	Number in thousands	Percent distribution											
All races[1]															
15–44 years	46,684	94.8	44,266	100.0	0.8	*0.4	41.6	1.8	2.3	30.0	4.0	5.1	11.3	1.0	1.8
15–19 years	4,467	85.4	3,817	100.0	-	*0.8	30.9	*0.4	*0.9	39.9	*1.2	*4.3	18.8	*0.9	1.9
20–24 years	9,080	93.8	8,516	100.0	*0.1	*0.5	44.1	*0.8	*1.8	28.7	*2.1	4.5	14.9	*0.5	*1.9
25–29 years	9,929	97.6	9,693	100.0	*0.3	*0.1	51.5	2.5	*1.0	22.1	3.4	3.4	13.2	*0.7	1.6
30–34 years	9,189	97.4	8,946	100.0	*0.5	*0.2	49.1	2.8	*1.5	27.4	5.2	3.6	8.4	*0.4	*0.8
35–39 years	7,725	96.8	7,479	100.0	*1.9	*0.7	40.0	*1.7	*1.7	31.3	5.8	6.3	8.2	*1.0	*1.4
40–44 years	6,293	92.4	5,815	100.0	*2.3	*0.6	18.8	*1.4	7.9	41.2	5.1	9.8	6.1	*3.0	*3.8
White															
15–44 years	39,031	95.4	37,216	100.0	0.7	*0.5	40.2	1.5	2.6	30.4	3.8	5.4	12.4	0.8	1.7
15–19 years	3,512	87.0	3,055	100.0	-	*1.0	26.5	*0.2	*1.1	40.6	*1.1	*5.0	21.7	*0.6	*2.2
20–24 years	7,480	94.1	7,041	100.0	-	*0.6	41.1	*0.7	*2.0	30.2	*1.8	4.5	16.5	*0.4	*2.0
25–29 years	8,313	98.2	8,161	100.0	*0.2	*0.1	49.9	*2.5	*1.1	21.9	3.4	3.6	14.8	*0.6	*1.7
30–34 years	7,771	97.5	7,575	100.0	*0.5	*0.3	48.7	*2.7	*1.6	27.0	5.2	3.8	9.2	*0.3	*0.9
35–39 years	6,535	97.3	6,360	100.0	*1.4	*0.7	40.6	*0.9	*1.9	32.1	4.9	6.5	9.3	*0.7	*1.0
40–44 years	5,419	92.7	5,024	100.0	*2.2	*0.7	18.3	*0.7	8.7	40.9	5.3	11.1	6.2	*2.6	*3.4
Black															
15–44 years	6,263	91.6	5,739	100.0	1.3	-	49.5	3.0	*1.0	28.1	5.5	2.6	4.5	2.1	2.3
15–19 years	835	79.7	665	100.0	-	-	50.0	*1.4	-	35.0	*2.1	*1.5	7.2	*2.0	*0.8
20–24 years	1,372	92.7	1,271	100.0	*0.5	-	62.9	*1.3	*1.1	19.1	*3.2	*2.2	7.2	*0.8	*1.6
25–29 years	1,316	95.3	1,254	100.0	*1.0	-	59.8	*2.9	*0.5	21.9	*4.2	*2.7	*3.6	*1.7	*1.7
30–34 years	1,130	95.9	1,083	100.0	*0.9	-	50.2	*3.7	*1.1	29.1	6.4	*2.0	*4.3	*1.4	*1.0
35–39 years	879	92.9	816	100.0	*2.5	-	33.4	*3.3	*0.5	31.5	15.0	*5.3	*1.7	*3.6	*3.2
40–44 years	732	88.7	649	100.0	*3.8	-	21.9	*6.4	*3.5	44.8	*3.0	*1.6	*2.1	*5.2	*7.6
MARITAL STATUS AND AGE															
Never married															
15–44 years	11,749	90.1	10,582	100.0	*0.2	*0.7	35.5	*1.4	*1.7	33.0	2.5	5.3	17.3	*0.9	*1.5
15–24 years	8,047	88.7	7,139	100.0	*0.1	*1.0	32.5	*0.5	*2.0	35.5	*1.4	5.7	19.2	*0.7	1.4
15–19 years	3,785	85.2	3,225	100.0	-	*0.9	28.9	*0.5	*1.0	40.9	*1.1	*4.3	19.9	*0.9	*1.7
15–17 years	1,495	76.0	1,136	100.0	-	-	27.2	*0.4	-	43.1	*2.1	*7.0	17.2	*1.5	*1.6
25–44 years	3,702	93.0	3,443	100.0	*0.4	*0.1	41.7	*3.4	*1.1	27.7	*4.7	*4.5	13.2	*1.4	*1.7
Currently married															
15–44 years	28,231	96.7	27,309	100.0	*0.8	*0.4	43.5	1.7	2.5	29.5	3.9	5.3	9.3	*1.1	1.9
15–24 years	4,741	94.7	4,491	100.0	-	-	50.1	*0.9	*1.0	27.9	*2.1	*2.9	11.6	*0.6	*2.9
25–34 years	12,924	98.6	12,740	100.0	*0.3	*0.2	51.2	*2.2	*1.3	24.6	4.1	3.5	10.6	*0.7	*1.3
35–44 years	10,566	95.4	10,078	100.0	*1.9	*0.8	30.9	*1.3	4.9	36.4	4.4	8.5	6.8	*1.8	*2.3

[1] Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 3. Number of women 15–44 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse, percent and number who have ever used a contraceptive method, and percent distribution by first method ever used, according to race, marital status, and age: United States, 1982—Con.

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Race, marital status, and age	Total	Ever contraceptors		First contraceptive method											
				All methods	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Pill	IUD	Diaphragm	Condom	Foam	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Douche	Other methods
MARITAL STATUS AND AGE—Con.															
Widowed, divorced, or separated	Number in thousands	Percent	Number in thousands	Percent distribution											
15–44 years	6,704	95.1	6,375	100.0	*1.8	0.0	43.3	*2.7	*2.1	27.5	6.9	3.8	9.7	*0.6	*1.7
15–24 years	759	92.5	702	100.0	-	-	51.9	*1.1	*0.5	*25.6	*5.0	*2.2	*12.9	-	*0.8
25–34 years	3,072	96.8	2,974	100.0	*1.0	-	52.2	*3.6	*1.1	24.4	*5.0	*2.4	9.3	*0.2	*0.8
35–44 years	2,873	93.9	2,699	100.0	*3.1	*0.1	31.3	*2.1	*3.5	31.4	*9.4	*5.8	*9.3	*1.1	*2.9

Table 4. Number of women 15–44 years of age who have ever used a contraceptive method and percent distribution by first method ever used, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1982

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Characteristic	Total	First contraceptive method											
		All methods	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Pill	IUD	Diaphragm	Condom	Foam	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Douche	Other methods
	Number in thousands	Percent distribution											
All women[1]	44,266	100.0	0.8	*0.4	41.6	1.8	2.3	30.0	4.0	5.1	11.3	1.0	1.8
Hispanic origin													
Hispanic	3,266	100.0	*1.8	*0.7	48.3	7.3	*1.1	22.2	*5.0	*1.3	8.2	*1.6	*2.5
Non-Hispanic	41,000	100.0	0.7	*0.4	41.0	1.3	2.4	30.7	3.9	5.4	11.5	0.9	1.7
Region													
Northeast	9,270	100.0	*1.0	*0.5	33.9	2.6	3.6	34.9	3.1	6.3	11.8	*0.7	*1.5
North Central	11,473	100.0	*0.8	*0.3	40.2	*0.9	*2.0	28.8	4.1	7.1	12.9	*1.0	*1.8
South	14,372	100.0	*0.8	*0.3	45.9	*1.6	*1.1	30.9	3.7	3.1	9.7	*1.1	*1.6
West	9,152	100.0	*0.6	*0.8	44.2	*2.2	3.1	25.4	5.1	4.3	11.1	*1.1	*2.3
Education													
Less than 12 years	8,488	100.0	*1.6	*0.3	43.2	3.6	*1.4	30.3	3.8	3.1	8.1	*2.0	*2.6
12 years	17,879	100.0	*0.9	*0.7	42.7	*1.3	1.7	29.7	3.5	4.9	11.8	*0.9	1.8
13 years or more	17,899	100.0	*0.4	*0.2	39.7	1.4	3.3	30.2	4.5	6.1	12.2	*0.6	1.4
Religion													
Protestant	26,286	100.0	0.9	*0.4	43.3	1.5	2.1	29.6	4.4	3.9	10.9	1.2	1.8
Catholic	13,321	100.0	*0.5	*0.5	38.5	2.2	2.7	29.4	3.1	8.0	12.5	*0.4	2.1
Poverty level income													
149 percent or less	10,861	100.0	*1.9	*0.1	45.0	3.1	*1.8	27.3	3.5	3.8	9.8	*1.7	*2.0
150 percent or more	33,405	100.0	*0.5	*0.5	40.4	1.3	2.4	30.9	4.1	5.5	11.8	*0.7	*1.7
300 percent or more	19,601	100.0	*0.5	*0.6	40.1	*1.1	2.9	30.9	3.3	5.8	12.0	*0.8	1.8
Living arrangements at age 14 years													
Living with both parents	33,200	100.0	0.8	*0.5	41.0	1.7	2.4	30.3	3.8	5.3	11.5	0.8	1.8
Living with 1 or neither parent	11,066	100.0	*0.9	*0.3	43.4	*2.0	*2.0	29.2	4.4	4.2	10.5	*1.6	*1.7
Age at first intercourse													
17 years or under	20,518	100.0	*0.7	*0.1	39.3	1.5	1.4	33.1	3.2	3.7	14.1	1.3	1.6
18 years or over	23,748	100.0	*0.9	*0.7	43.6	2.0	3.0	27.4	4.6	6.2	8.8	*0.7	2.0

[1] Includes Protestant, Catholic, other religions, and no religion.

Table 5. Number of women 15–44 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse, percent who have ever used a contraceptive method, and percent who have ever used each method, by race, marital status, and age: United States, 1982

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Race, marital status, and age	Total	Contraceptive methods ever used												
		Any method	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Any nonsurgical method	Pill	IUD	Diaphragm	Condom	Foam	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Douche	Other methods
RACE AND AGE	Number in thousands	Percent												
All races[1]														
15–44 years	46,684	94.8	16.2	10.1	94.8	76.3	18.4	17.1	51.8	24.9	18.3	24.5	6.8	16.7
15–19 years	4,467	85.4	*0.0	*0.7	85.4	54.0	*1.1	*4.8	51.3	10.6	10.7	27.4	*3.0	11.0
20–24 years	9,080	93.8	2.9	3.3	93.8	73.4	7.2	14.1	48.9	15.8	13.7	28.8	4.3	15.8
25–29 years	9,929	97.6	10.3	5.7	97.6	85.4	21.2	21.9	54.2	26.3	19.3	27.1	4.8	20.9
30–34 years	9,189	97.4	21.8	13.5	97.2	85.6	27.2	17.2	52.1	31.7	21.3	21.6	6.9	17.1
35–39 years	7,725	96.8	30.1	18.2	96.7	79.6	25.6	14.7	48.9	33.7	20.2	20.8	6.9	14.2
40–44 years	6,293	92.4	31.2	18.5	92.4	64.6	20.9	25.6	55.7	24.8	21.8	20.7	15.9	17.6
White														
15–44 years	39,031	95.4	15.9	11.5	95.3	76.7	18.0	18.7	53.7	25.7	19.9	26.2	6.0	16.6
15–19 years	3,512	87.0	-	*0.9	87.0	53.2	*0.6	*5.7	53.6	10.5	11.4	31.1	*2.0	11.6
20–24 years	7,480	94.1	*2.6	3.9	94.1	72.1	6.3	15.6	51.4	15.9	14.8	31.2	3.6	16.5
25–29 years	8,313	98.2	8.7	6.5	98.2	85.5	21.0	23.5	56.6	27.2	20.9	29.4	3.7	21.6
30–34 years	7,771	97.5	20.8	15.2	97.3	86.5	26.0	18.7	53.7	33.0	23.4	23.0	6.2	17.2
35–39 years	6,535	97.3	29.6	20.4	97.2	80.9	24.8	15.5	50.5	34.9	21.5	22.1	6.0	13.3
40–44 years	5,419	92.7	32.0	20.6	92.7	66.1	20.8	27.6	56.5	25.5	23.8	20.9	15.1	15.3
Black														
15–44 years	6,263	91.6	18.1	1.2	91.6	76.3	21.6	10.0	39.7	22.1	9.1	13.7	12.3	18.0
15–19 years	835	79.7	*0.2	-	79.7	58.9	*3.2	*1.3	39.7	10.5	*6.9	11.8	*6.5	*5.0
20–24 years	1,372	92.7	5.2	*0.5	92.7	81.0	11.2	6.4	34.7	16.4	6.9	14.7	8.7	13.6
25–29 years	1,316	95.3	18.9	*1.3	95.3	87.4	26.4	13.3	40.4	23.3	12.3	13.9	12.0	17.4
30–34 years	1,130	95.9	27.8	*1.9	95.6	82.8	33.7	11.5	40.9	29.3	9.7	13.5	13.3	20.7
35–39 years	879	92.9	31.9	*1.9	92.9	76.9	28.9	13.6	40.2	31.1	11.9	10.0	14.0	20.2
40–44 years	732	88.7	29.6	*1.8	88.7	56.2	25.8	14.0	45.7	21.6	*6.1	18.4	22.0	35.3
MARITAL STATUS AND AGE														
Never married														
15–44 years	11,749	90.1	2.1	2.5	90.1	62.8	8.3	15.0	48.5	14.1	14.2	28.2	4.4	16.2
15–24 years	8,047	88.7	*0.6	*1.9	88.7	57.2	3.9	9.7	49.4	10.2	12.4	29.9	3.0	14.2
15–19 years	3,785	85.2	*0.0	*0.8	85.2	52.0	*0.8	*4.9	51.7	10.0	11.5	28.6	*3.3	10.8
15–17 years	1,495	76.0	*0.1	-	76.0	43.2	*0.8	*2.1	46.6	*8.9	*10.3	21.2	*3.2	*9.0
25–44 years	3,702	93.0	5.3	*3.8	93.0	74.8	17.9	26.5	46.5	22.4	18.1	24.7	7.6	20.7
Currently married														
15–44 years	28,231	96.7	20.3	13.3	96.7	80.1	20.5	17.7	54.3	28.5	19.8	23.3	7.4	16.3
15–24 years	4,741	94.7	*3.9	*3.2	94.7	79.9	*7.2	12.2	51.3	18.2	13.5	26.2	*5.4	15.0
25–34 years	12,924	98.6	17.6	11.1	98.6	86.9	24.1	18.0	56.6	31.3	20.7	24.6	5.8	18.2
35–44 years	10,566	95.4	30.9	20.6	95.3	72.0	22.0	20.0	52.8	29.7	21.6	20.4	10.4	14.6

Widowed, divorced, or separated													
15–44 years	6,704	95.1	24.0	9.8	94.9	84.0	27.4	18.2	47.0	28.3	19.0	23.1	8.2	18.9
15–24 years	759	92.5	*4.4	*2.9	92.5	90.0	*6.0	*17.7	42.5	*29.5	*11.3	*25.6	*4.1	*10.4
25–34 years	3,072	96.8	19.2	*10.0	95.3	89.1	29.9	16.5	45.3	26.6	20.8	23.8	5.8	22.3
35–44 years	2,873	93.9	34.2	*11.4	93.9	77.1	30.5	20.2	50.0	29.9	19.1	21.7	*11.8	17.5

[1]Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 6. Number of women 15–44 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse and percent who have ever used each contraceptive method, by selected characteristics: United States, 1982

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Characteristic	Total	Contraceptive methods ever used												
		Any method	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Any nonsurgical method	Pill	IUD	Diaphragm	Condom	Foam	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Douche	Other methods
	Number in thousands	Percent												
All women[1]	46,684	94.8	16.2	10.1	94.8	76.3	18.4	17.1	51.8	24.9	18.3	24.5	6.8	16.7
Hispanic origin														
Hispanic	3,713	88.0	14.2	*4.2	87.5	71.2	29.1	9.3	39.5	21.9	10.0	16.2	6.6	13.8
Non-Hispanic	42,970	95.4	16.4	10.6	95.4	76.8	17.5	17.8	52.8	25.1	19.0	25.2	6.8	16.9
Region														
Northeast	9,873	93.9	15.0	6.8	93.7	64.2	19.2	24.9	52.8	21.4	20.6	24.5	4.9	16.0
North Central	12,009	95.5	17.9	11.1	95.5	78.9	14.2	17.4	52.9	27.0	22.0	27.6	6.6	17.1
South	15,220	94.4	18.0	7.8	94.3	79.7	17.3	11.8	51.3	23.7	12.8	22.4	7.7	14.2
West	9,581	95.5	12.7	15.9	95.5	80.2	24.5	17.2	50.2	27.5	20.0	23.9	7.4	20.8
Education														
Less than 12 years	9,668	87.8	17.4	4.5	87.8	67.7	18.7	6.8	43.7	19.8	8.2	17.8	6.9	12.8
12 years	18,557	96.3	18.2	12.2	96.3	78.3	15.1	12.2	50.2	23.2	16.8	25.0	7.5	16.1
13 years or more	18,459	97.0	13.6	10.9	96.9	78.9	21.5	27.5	57.6	29.2	25.0	27.5	6.0	19.3
Religion														
Protestant	27,458	95.7	18.6	11.6	95.7	80.8	18.8	15.0	52.4	26.5	15.9	24.7	8.5	17.2
Catholic	14,395	92.5	13.0	7.7	92.4	68.1	15.9	15.5	49.1	20.9	23.4	24.7	3.9	15.5
Poverty level income														
149 percent or less	11,931	91.0	16.2	5.4	90.8	71.3	18.1	10.4	45.2	20.1	12.9	19.8	8.2	17.6
150 percent or more	34,753	96.1	16.3	11.7	96.1	78.1	18.5	19.4	54.1	26.5	20.1	26.1	6.3	16.3
300 percent or more	20,386	96.2	15.1	12.9	96.1	79.0	18.7	21.7	55.1	25.9	20.3	26.0	6.3	15.6
Living arrangements at age 14 years														
Living with both parents	34,921	95.1	16.1	10.6	95.0	76.2	18.5	17.7	52.8	24.4	19.0	25.2	6.1	16.0
Living with 1 or neither parent	11,763	94.1	16.5	8.6	93.9	76.6	18.0	15.4	48.9	26.2	16.1	22.3	8.8	18.7
Age at first intercourse														
17 years and under	21,695	94.6	15.6	6.5	94.5	78.5	18.1	14.8	52.3	23.3	15.4	28.3	7.9	16.2
18 years and over	24,989	95.0	16.8	13.2	95.0	74.4	18.6	19.2	51.3	26.2	20.8	21.2	5.9	17.1

[1] Includes Protestant, Catholic, other religions, and no religion.

Table 7. Number of women 15–44 years of age, percent who have ever used the oral contraceptive pill, percent currently using it, number of former users, and percent who were told to stop using the pill by a doctor, by selected characteristics: United States, 1982

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Characteristic	Total	Pill		Former pill contraceptor	
		Ever used	Current user	Total	Told to stop by doctor
	Number in thousands	Percent		Number in thousands	Percent
All women[1]	54,099	[2]65.9	15.6	27,193	35.6
Age					
15–19 years	9,521	25.3	15.4	949	*16.1
20–24 years	10,629	62.7	30.9	3,384	27.1
25–29 years	10,263	82.6	22.8	6,136	34.2
30–34 years	9,381	83.8	11.0	6,834	34.8
35–39 years	7,893	77.9	3.5	5,872	39.5
40–44 years	6,412	63.4	*0.7	4,019	45.3
Race					
White	45,367	66.0	15.1	23,077	34.7
Black	6,985	68.4	19.8	3,392	41.8
Hispanic origin					
Hispanic	4,393	60.2	15.2	1,977	32.8
Non-Hispanic	49,706	66.4	15.6	25,216	35.9
Marital status					
Never married	19,164	38.5	18.7	3,796	23.8
Currently married	28,231	80.1	13.4	18,836	37.0
Widowed, divorced, or separated	6,704	84.0	16.0	4,562	39.9
Education					
Less than 12 years	13,465	48.6	11.4	5,014	35.3
12 years	20,257	71.7	18.6	10,761	37.6
13 years or more	20,377	71.5	15.4	11,418	34.0
Religion					
Protestant	31,298	70.9	16.3	17,112	36.8
Catholic	17,377	56.4	14.5	7,272	34.5
Poverty level income					
149 percent or less	13,843	61.4	17.7	6,056	34.3
150 percent or more	40,256	67.4	14.9	21,137	36.0
300 percent or more	23,411	68.8	15.1	12,572	36.4
Region					
Northeast	11,851	53.5	10.0	5,152	35.9
North Central	13,981	67.7	16.8	7,126	34.9
South	17,308	70.1	19.0	8,844	38.2
West	10,958	70.1	14.7	6,072	32.6

[1] Includes white, black, and other races; Protestant, Catholic, other religions, and no religion.
[2] This percent differs from that in tables 5 and 6 because women who have never had intercourse are excluded from tables 5 and 6, but included in this table.

Table 8. Number of women 15–44 years of age, and percent distribution by current contraceptive status and method, according to marital status, race, and Hispanic origin: United States, 1982

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Contraceptive status and method	Marital status and race									Hispanic origin	
	All marital statuses[1]			Currently married			Widowed, divorced, or separated				
	All races[2]	White	Black	All races[2]	White	Black	All races[2]	White	Black	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
	Number in thousands										
All women	54,099	45,367	6,985	28,231	25,195	2,130	6,704	5,224	1,310	4,393	49,706
	Percent distribution										
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sterile	27.2	27.7	23.7	40.9	41.0	38.0	38.0	36.8	41.5	20.4	27.8
Surgically sterile	25.7	26.1	22.2	38.9	38.9	36.2	36.1	35.0	39.2	18.4	26.3
Contraceptively sterile	17.8	18.3	14.9	27.8	28.2	23.1	21.6	20.2	27.9	12.3	18.3
Female	11.9	11.6	14.2	17.4	17.0	20.9	19.8	17.8	27.9	10.2	12.1
Male	5.9	6.7	*0.7	10.5	11.2	2.2	*1.9	*2.4	-	*2.0	6.3
Noncontraceptively sterile	7.8	7.8	7.3	11.0	10.7	13.1	14.5	14.8	11.3	6.1	8.0
Female	7.3	7.3	7.3	10.1	9.8	13.1	14.5	14.8	11.3	5.8	7.5
Male	0.5	0.5	0.0	1.0	1.0	*0.1	-	-	-	*0.2	0.5
Nonsurgically sterile	1.5	1.6	1.5	2.0	2.1	*1.8	1.9	1.8	2.4	*2.1	1.5
Pregnant, post partum	5.0	4.8	5.6	7.2	7.2	6.1	2.6	2.6	2.1	7.3	4.8
Seeking pregnancy	4.2	4.0	5.4	6.7	6.5	8.6	2.1	1.2	5.2	6.4	4.0
Other nonuser	26.9	26.2	29.6	5.0	4.5	9.6	25.6	25.3	25.4	29.2	26.7
Never had intercourse	13.6	13.9	10.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.7	13.5
No intercourse in last 3 months	5.9	6.0	5.8	*0.2	*0.1	*0.9	15.1	16.0	10.6	6.0	5.9
Intercourse in last 3 months	7.4	6.4	13.5	4.8	4.4	8.7	10.4	9.3	14.8	8.5	7.3
Nonsurgical contraceptors	36.7	37.2	35.7	40.1	40.7	37.7	31.8	34.1	25.9	36.7	36.7
Pill	15.6	15.1	19.8	13.4	13.4	15.5	15.8	17.1	11.4	15.3	15.6
IUD	4.0	3.9	4.7	4.8	4.8	5.9	6.4	6.6	6.3	9.7	3.5
Diaphragm	4.5	5.0	1.8	4.5	4.7	3.3	3.7	4.4	*1.4	*2.4	4.7
Condom	6.7	7.2	3.2	9.8	10.2	4.3	*0.8	*0.8	*0.9	*3.5	6.9
Foam	1.3	1.4	1.4	2.0	2.0	*2.1	*1.1	*1.1	*0.9	*1.1	1.3
Periodic abstinence	2.2	2.2	1.6	3.2	3.3	2.4	*1.4	*1.2	2.1	*2.0	2.2
Withdrawal	1.1	1.2	*0.7	1.2	1.2	*1.2	*0.3	*0.4	*0.1	*1.3	1.1
Douche	*0.1	0.0	*0.7	*0.1	*0.1	*1.0	*0.1	-	*0.4	*0.0	*0.1
Other methods	1.3	1.2	1.7	1.0	0.9	*2.1	2.3	*2.3	2.3	*1.4	1.3

[1] Includes never married and ever married women.
[2] Includes white, black, and other races.

Table 9. Number of never married women 15–44 years of age and percent distribution by current contraceptive status and method, according to age and race: United States, 1982

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Contraceptive status and method	15–44 years			15–19 years						20–44 years		
				Total			15–17 years					
	All races[1]	White	Black	All races[1]	White	Black	All races[1]	White	Black	All races[1]	White	Black
	Number in thousands											
All women	19,164	14,948	3,545	8,839	7,193	1,377	4,968	3,971	818	10,325	7,755	2,168
	Percent distribution											
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sterile	3.2	2.0	8.6	0.5	0.6	*0.4	*0.5	*0.5	*0.4	5.6	3.4	13.8
Surgically sterile	2.6	1.4	7.5	*0.1	*0.1	*0.1	0.0	-	*0.2	4.7	2.7	12.2
Contraceptively sterile[2]	1.8	*1.0	5.2	*0.1	*0.1	-	-	-	-	3.2	*1.9	8.6
Female	1.1	*0.3	5.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.1	*0.5	8.3
Noncontraceptively sterile[2]	*0.8	*0.4	2.3	0.0	-	*0.1	0.0	-	*0.2	*1.5	*0.8	3.7
Female	*0.8	*0.4	2.3	0.0	-	*0.1	0.0	-	*0.2	*1.5	*0.8	3.7
Nonsurgically sterile	*0.7	*0.6	*1.0	*0.4	*0.4	*0.3	*0.4	*0.5	*0.2	*0.9	*0.7	*1.5
Pregnant, post partum	2.5	1.6	6.6	3.1	2.2	7.6	*2.9	1.8	8.5	2.0	*1.0	6.0
Seeking pregnancy	1.2	0.7	3.6	*0.9	0.8	1.6	*0.7	0.7	0.6	*1.5	*0.6	4.9
Other nonuser	59.7	63.2	43.1	73.5	75.4	61.6	82.7	84.7	72.3	47.9	51.8	31.4
Never had intercourse	38.4	42.1	20.3	56.9	59.6	42.1	69.5	72.0	55.9	22.6	25.9	6.5
No intercourse in last 3 months	11.2	12.3	6.9	6.4	6.8	*3.5	4.9	5.0	*3.7	15.2	17.4	9.1
Intercourse in last 3 months	10.1	8.8	15.9	10.1	9.0	16.0	8.4	7.6	12.6	10.1	8.5	15.8
Nonsurgical contraceptors	33.3	32.5	38.1	22.0	21.1	28.8	13.2	12.3	18.2	43.0	43.2	43.9
Pill	18.7	17.3	25.5	13.8	12.6	20.5	8.5	7.8	11.8	22.9	21.7	28.6
IUD	1.9	1.5	3.5	*0.2	0.0	*1.2	*0.2	0.0	*0.8	3.4	2.8	4.9
Diaphragm	4.7	5.6	*1.1	*1.4	*1.6	*0.6	*0.5	*0.5	*0.3	7.6	9.4	*1.5
Condom	4.1	4.3	3.4	4.9	5.2	*3.7	*3.3	*3.5	*2.6	3.4	3.5	3.3
Foam	*0.4	*0.3	*1.1	*0.1	-	*0.8	*0.1	-	*0.4	*0.7	*0.5	*1.4
Periodic abstinence	*0.9	*0.8	*1.0	*0.5	*0.5	*0.7	*0.2	*0.1	*0.6	*1.2	*1.0	*1.2
Withdrawal	1.2	*1.4	*0.6	*0.7	*0.8	*0.5	*0.5	*0.4	*0.6	1.6	*1.9	*0.7
Douche	*0.1	-	*0.6	*0.1	-	*0.4	*0.1	-	*0.6	*0.1	-	*0.7
Other methods	1.3	*1.4	1.2	*0.3	*0.3	*0.5	*0.1	-	*0.4	2.1	2.4	1.7

[1] Includes white, black, and other races.
[2] Includes male sterilization, not shown separately.

Table 10. Number of currently married women 15–44 years of age and percent distribution by current contraceptive status, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1982

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Characteristic	Total	All women	Contraceptors	Noncontraceptors			
				Total	Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy	Noncontraceptively sterile[1]	Other nonuser
	Number in thousands	Percent distribution					
All women[2]	28,231	100.0	68.0	32.0	13.9	13.1	5.0
Age							
15–29 years	11,183	100.0	67.2	32.8	24.0	4.0	4.8
30–44 years	17,048	100.0	68.5	31.5	7.3	19.1	5.1
Race							
White	24,195	100.0	68.8	31.2	13.8	12.8	4.5
Black	2,130	100.0	60.8	39.2	14.7	14.9	9.6
Education							
Less than 12 years	4,844	100.0	56.7	43.3	18.9	16.4	*7.9
12 years	12,191	100.0	68.4	31.6	12.3	13.9	5.4
13 years or more	11,196	100.0	72.3	27.7	13.6	10.8	*3.3
Intent to have (more) children							
Intends more children	8,313	100.0	62.5	37.5	31.8		5.7
Intends no more children	18,311	100.0	70.2	29.8	5.6	20.2	4.0
Religion (white women only)							
Protestant	15,190	100.0	68.0	32.0	13.2	15.0	3.8
Catholic	8,008	100.0	69.2	30.8	15.1	10.5	5.2
Years since first marriage							
0–4 years	6,087	100.0	64.1	35.9	27.7	*2.8	*5.3
5–9 years	6,437	100.0	68.0	32.0	21.6	6.5	*4.0
10–14 years	6,520	100.0	72.0	28.0	9.8	12.6	*5.6
15 years or more	9,178	100.0	67.7	32.3	*2.4	24.8	5.1

[1] Includes nonsurgically sterile as well as surgically sterile for noncontraceptive reasons. These two categories are shown separately in tables 8 and 9.

[2] Includes white, black, and other races; Protestant, Catholic, other religions, and no religion.

Table 11. Number of currently married women 15–44 years of age using contraceptives and percent distribution by method of contraception, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1982

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Characteristic	Total	Contraceptive method											
		All women	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Pill	IUD	Diaphragm	Condom	Foam	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Douche	Other methods
	Number in thousands	Percent distribution											
All women[1]	19,187	100.0	25.6	15.4	19.8	7.1	6.7	14.4	2.9	4.7	*1.7	*0.2	*1.5
Age													
15–29 years	7,517	100.0	11.0	6.4	40.5	7.2	9.0	14.2	*2.7	*4.8	*2.7	*0.1	*1.4
30–44 years	11,670	100.0	35.0	21.2	6.4	7.0	5.2	14.6	*3.0	4.7	*1.1	*0.3	*1.5
Race													
White	17,346	100.0	24.7	16.2	19.5	7.0	6.8	14.8	3.0	4.8	*1.8	*0.1	*1.3
Black	1,294	100.0	34.4	*3.6	25.5	9.6	5.4	7.1	*3.4	*3.9	*2.0	*1.7	*3.5
Education													
Less than 12 years	2,748	100.0	34.1	*9.7	21.6	*9.9	*1.9	*12.6	*3.6	*2.6	*1.6	*0.6	*1.7
12 years	8,344	100.0	26.0	17.8	23.7	5.7	*3.2	11.6	*3.1	*4.8	*2.1	*0.1	*1.8
13 years or more	8,095	100.0	22.3	14.8	15.1	7.5	11.8	18.0	*2.4	5.4	*1.4	*0.2	*1.1
Intent to have (more) children													
Intends more children	5,195	100.0	-	-	44.6	*6.8	15.4	18.4	*3.4	*6.2	*3.3	*0.1	*1.9
Intends no more children	12,846	100.0	38.2	23.0	9.2	6.0	*3.1	12.3	*2.2	3.5	*1.0	*0.3	*1.2
Religion (white women only)													
Protestant	10,330	100.0	26.7	18.8	21.7	5.8	5.0	12.0	*3.2	*3.2	*1.6	*0.2	*1.9
Catholic	5,539	100.0	22.1	13.1	17.2	7.3	*7.1	19.4	*3.0	8.2	*2.0	-	*0.7
Years since first marriage													
0–4 years	3,904	100.0	*3.5	*2.8	48.0	*4.7	13.5	15.9	*2.8	*5.3	*1.6	*0.2	*1.5
5–9 years	4,374	100.0	14.3	10.5	26.7	*8.9	9.6	17.0	*3.1	*4.8	*3.3	0.0	*1.9
10–14 years	4,694	100.0	30.5	19.6	11.8	9.8	*3.8	13.9	*2.9	*5.6	*0.9	0.0	*1.1
15 years or more	6,214	100.0	43.7	23.5	*3.1	*5.2	*2.5	12.0	*2.8	*3.7	*1.4	*0.5	*1.6

[1] Includes white, black, and other races; Protestant, Catholic, other religions, and no religion.

Table 12. Number of currently married women 15–44 years of age and percent distribution by current contraceptive status, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1982

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Characteristic	Total	Contraceptive status						
		All women	Contraceptors		Noncontraceptors			
			Surgical	Non-surgical	Total	Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy	Noncontraceptively sterile[1]	Other nonuser
	Number in thousands	Percent distribution						
All women[2]	28,231	100.0	27.8	40.1	32.0	13.9	13.1	5.0
Age								
15–19 years	612	100.0	-	53.1	46.9	*40.4	*0.5	*5.9
20–24 years	4,130	100.0	*7.5	59.1	33.3	26.5	*1.9	*5.0
25–29 years	6,332	100.0	15.4	53.5	31.1	20.9	*5.6	*4.6
30–34 years	6,482	100.0	32.3	38.0	29.7	12.9	12.6	*4.2
35–39 years	5,783	100.0	39.5	27.4	33.0	*5.9	21.6	*5.5
40–44 years	4,783	100.0	45.5	22.3	32.2	*1.6	24.7	*6.0
Race								
White	25,195	100.0	28.2	40.7	31.2	13.8	12.8	4.5
Black	2,130	100.0	23.1	37.7	39.2	14.7	14.9	9.6
Hispanic origin								
Hispanic	2,296	100.0	20.8	43.3	35.9	19.5	*7.6	*8.8
Non-Hispanic	25,935	100.0	28.5	39.8	31.7	13.5	13.6	4.7
Region								
Northeast	5,549	100.0	24.4	45.2	30.4	15.2	9.4	*5.8
North Central	7,632	100.0	29.8	38.1	32.1	13.7	14.8	*3.5
South	9,453	100.0	28.5	39.5	32.0	12.4	13.8	5.8
West	5,598	100.0	27.6	38.7	33.7	15.7	13.2	*4.8
Poverty level income								
149 percent or less	4,580	100.0	25.1	38.5	36.4	20.2	11.0	*5.2
Below poverty	2,278	100.0	23.1	39.4	37.5	20.7	*10.5	*6.4
150 percent or more	23,652	100.0	28.4	40.4	31.2	12.7	13.5	5.0
200 percent or more	20,247	100.0	28.1	40.6	31.4	13.1	13.3	5.0
300 percent or more	14,739	100.0	28.1	39.8	32.2	12.9	14.0	5.2
Parity								
0–1 births	10,989	100.0	8.1	49.1	42.9	27.2	10.0	5.6
2–4 births	16,201	100.0	40.9	34.4	24.7	5.7	14.5	4.5
5 births or more	1,041	100.0	33.5	35.2	31.3	*1.5	*23.7	*6.0
Labor force status								
In labor force	15,688	100.0	29.8	40.0	30.2	13.0	12.9	4.4
Not in labor force	12,543	100.0	25.4	40.2	34.3	15.2	13.4	5.8
Education								
Less than 12 years	4,844	100.0	24.8	31.9	43.3	18.9	16.4	*7.9
12 years	12,191	100.0	30.0	38.4	31.6	12.3	13.9	5.4
13 years or more	11,196	100.0	26.8	45.5	27.7	13.6	10.8	*3.3
Religion								
Protestant	17,408	100.0	30.0	37.1	32.9	13.3	15.2	4.4
Catholic	8,412	100.0	24.8	44.0	31.2	15.2	10.6	5.4

[1] Includes nonsurgically sterile as well as surgically sterile for noncontraceptive reasons. These two categories are shown separately in tables 8 and 9.
[2] Includes white, black, and other races; Protestant, Catholic, other religions, and no religion.

Table 13. Number of currently married women 15–44 years of age currently using contraceptives other than sterilization and percent distribution by method of contraception used, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1982

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Characteristic	Total	Contraceptive method									
		All methods	Pill	IUD	Diaphragm	Condom	Foam	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Douche	Other methods
	Number in thousands	Percent distribution									
All women[1]	11,325	100.0	33.5	12.0	11.3	24.4	4.9	8.0	*3.0	*0.4	*2.5
Age											
15–19 years	325	100.0	71.7	*3.8	*3.8	*14.0	*1.0	*1.2	*0.5	-	*4.0
20–24 years	2,442	100.0	59.4	*4.3	*8.0	16.4	*2.8	*5.6	*2.6	*0.2	*0.7
25–29 years	3,444	100.0	39.5	12.2	13.6	18.0	*3.8	*6.4	*4.1	*0.1	*2.3
30–34 years	2,462	100.0	22.2	15.3	*14.1	30.2	*5.4	*8.6	*1.5	*0.1	*2.8
35–39 years	1,585	100.0	*9.9	*17.8	*8.9	33.7	*9.1	*12.0	*2.5	*1.0	*5.0
40–44 years	1,066	100.0	*4.3	*15.0	*10.8	39.7	*7.3	*13.5	*5.1	*1.3	*2.9
Race											
White	10,251	100.0	32.9	11.8	11.5	25.0	5.0	8.2	*3.0	*0.2	*2.3
Black	802	100.0	41.1	15.5	8.6	11.4	*5.5	*6.3	*3.2	*2.7	*5.6
Hispanic origin											
Hispanic	995	100.0	42.7	*25.4	*4.8	*13.8	*3.9	*7.6	*1.2	-	*0.5
Non-Hispanic	10,330	100.0	32.6	10.7	11.9	25.4	5.0	8.0	*3.1	*0.4	*2.7
Region											
Northeast	2,508	100.0	*14.6	*12.9	20.3	32.8	*4.9	*8.7	*4.2	*0.1	*1.6
North Central	2,910	100.0	37.2	*10.2	*8.6	23.2	*4.8	*9.7	*2.9	*0.4	*3.0
South	3,738	100.0	44.2	11.3	*6.0	21.5	*5.1	*5.3	*2.6	*0.7	*3.2
West	2,169	100.0	31.9	*14.5	*13.5	21.4	*4.9	*9.5	*2.3	*0.1	*1.9
Poverty level income											
149 percent or less	1,761	100.0	46.8	*12.1	*5.6	*17.2	*1.9	*9.6	*1.5	*0.7	*4.6
Below poverty	898	100.0	45.1	*15.5	*6.1	*19.3	*0.3	*9.1	*0.1	*0.0	*4.5
150 percent or more	9,564	100.0	31.0	12.0	12.3	25.8	5.5	7.7	*3.2	*0.3	*2.2
200 percent or more	8,213	100.0	32.0	12.0	2.3	26.0	*5.0	7.4	*3.0	*0.3	*2.1
300 percent or more	5,864	100.0	30.9	12.3	14.4	27.2	*3.1	*6.6	*3.4	*0.3	*1.8
Parity											
0–1 births	5,392	100.0	44.9	8.4	13.3	19.3	*3.3	*6.2	*2.4	*0.3	*2.0
2–4 births	5,567	100.0	24.4	14.4	10.0	29.6	*5.9	8.6	*3.7	*0.4	*2.9
5 births or more	366	100.0	*3.8	*27.7	*1.3	*22.2	*13.5	*25.6	*0.3	*0.6	*5.1
Labor force status											
In labor force	6,278	100.0	35.8	11.7	12.6	22.3	*5.1	7.7	*2.7	*0.3	*1.9
Not in labor force	5,048	100.0	30.6	12.4	9.7	27.1	*4.8	8.3	*3.3	*0.4	*3.4

[1] Includes white, black, and other races; Protestant, Catholic, other religions, and no religion.

Table 13. Number of currently married women 15–44 years of age currently using contraceptives other than sterilization and percent distribution by method of contraception used, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1982—Con.

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Characteristic	*Total*	*Contraceptive method*									
		All methods	*Pill*	*IUD*	*Diaphragm*	*Condom*	*Foam*	*Periodic abstinence*	*Withdrawal*	*Douche*	*Other methods*
	Number in thousands	Percent distribution									
Education											
Less than 12 years	1,544	100.0	38.5	*17.5	*3.4	22.4	6.5	*4.7	*2.9	*1.0	*3.1
12 years	4,686	100.0	42.2	10.1	*5.8	20.6	*5.6	*8.6	*3.8	*0.2	*3.1
13 years or more	5,094	100.0	24.0	12.0	18.8	28.6	*3.8	8.5	*2.2	*0.3	*1.8
Religion											
Protestant	6,465	100.0	40.2	11.0	8.9	21.4	*5.6	*5.8	*2.9	*0.6	*3.6
Catholic	3,701	100.0	26.3	11.1	11.8	29.2	*4.5	12.7	*3.1	-	*1.3

Table 14. Number of widowed, divorced, and separated women 15–44 years of age and percent distribution by contraceptive status, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1982

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Characteristic	Total	Contraceptive status						
		All women	Contraceptors		Noncontraceptors			
			Surgical	Non-surgical	Total	Noncontraceptively sterile	Pregnant, post partum, or seeking pregnancy	Other nonuser
	Number in thousands	Percent distribution						
All women[1]	6,704	100.0	21.6	31.8	46.5	16.3	*4.6	25.6
Age								
15–29 years	2,095	100.0	9.3	53.9	36.8	*5.6	*8.6	22.6
30–44 years	4,609	100.0	27.3	21.8	51.0	21.2	*2.8	26.9
Race								
White	5,224	100.0	20.2	34.1	45.7	16.6	*3.8	25.3
Black	1,310	100.0	27.9	25.9	46.3	13.7	7.2	25.4
Labor force status								
In labor force	4,936	100.0	21.5	33.9	44.6	15.8	*3.3	25.5
Not in labor force	1,767	100.0	22.1	26.0	51.9	*17.9	*8.3	25.8
Poverty level income								
149 percent or less	2,762	100.0	24.0	22.7	53.3	19.6	*3.7	30.0
150 percent or more	3,941	100.0	20.0	38.2	41.8	14.0	*5.3	22.4
300 percent or more	1,707	100.0	*16.4	43.1	40.5	*15.6	*7.1	*17.9
Education								
Less than 12 years	1,732	100.0	23.2	22.1	54.8	21.6	*7.2	25.9
12 years	2,652	100.0	22.4	30.5	47.1	16.4	*4.5	26.2
13 years or more	2,319	100.0	19.6	40.6	39.8	12.4	*2.9	24.6
Religion								
Protestant	4,005	100.0	24.5	28.5	47.0	20.1	*4.2	22.7
Catholic	1,864	100.0	*16.1	34.9	49.0	*12.2	*6.0	30.7
Parity								
0 births	1,148	100.0	*9.2	49.9	40.9	*6.3	*8.6	*26.0
1 birth	1,667	100.0	*7.4	42.9	49.7	*12.4	*7.8	29.4
2 births	1,997	100.0	24.9	30.8	44.3	18.2	*1.5	24.7
3 births or more	1,892	100.0	38.3	*12.1	49.6	24.0	*2.8	22.8

[1] Includes white, black, and other races; Protestant, Catholic, other religions, and no religion.

Table 15. Number of widowed, divorced, and separated women 15–44 years of age who were using contraceptives other than sterilization and percent distribution by method used, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1982

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definition of terms]

Characteristic	Total	Contraceptive method				
		All methods	Pill	IUD	Diaphragm	Other methods[1]
	Number in thousands	Percent distribution				
All women[2]	2,132	100.0	49.5	20.1	11.7	18.7
Age						
15–29 years	1,129	100.0	66.2	11.0	9.8	13.0
30–44 years	1,003	100.0	30.8	30.4	13.8	25.1
Race						
White	1,780	100.0	50.3	19.4	12.9	17.4
Black	339	100.0	44.0	24.5	5.3	26.3
Labor force status						
In labor force	1,674	100.0	48.9	17.7	13.5	19.9
Not in labor force	459	100.0	51.7	29.0	5.0	14.4
Poverty level income						
149 percent or less	627	100.0	52.1	21.9	9.1	16.9
150 percent or more	1,505	100.0	48.5	19.4	12.8	19.4
300 percent or more	735	100.0	50.3	17.6	11.8	20.2
Education						
12 years or less	1,192	100.0	56.7	19.7	7.0	16.6
13 years or more	941	100.0	40.5	20.6	17.6	21.3
Religion						
Protestant	1,141	100.0	50.7	20.9	9.4	19.0
Catholic	651	100.0	54.2	19.1	11.8	14.9
Parity						
0–1 births	1,288	100.0	59.5	11.2	12.9	16.4
2 births or more	844	100.0	34.4	33.7	9.8	22.1

[1] Includes condom, foam, periodic abstinence, withdrawal, douche, and other methods.
[2] Includes white, black, and other races; Protestant, Catholic, other religions, and no religion.

Table 16. Number of women 15–44 years of age using selected methods of contraception and percent whose first source of the method was a clinic, by method, race, marital status, and age: United States, 1982

[Statistics are based on a sample of the household population of the conterminous United States. See appendixes for discussion of the sample design, estimates of sampling variability, and definitions of terms]

Race, marital status, and age	Contraceptive method							
	Total	Pill	IUD	Diaphragm	Total	Pill	IUD	Diaphragm
	Number in thousands				Percent			
All marital statuses								
All races[1]	13,020	8,431	2,153	2,436	27.2	26.9	28.9	26.4
White	10,896	6,864	1,775	2,256	24.3	23.1	25.5	26.9
Black	1,840	1,382	331	127	44.8	45.8	47.1	*27.1
Never married								
All races[1]	4,855	3,581	*367	908	40.0	36.2	59.3	47.3
White	3,654	2,593	*217	844	36.7	31.0	59.5	48.5
Black	1,066	902	123	*40	52.0	51.1	59.9	*48.2
Currently married								
All races[1]	6,430	3,794	1,357	1,279	17.8	18.1	*20.9	*13.6
White	5,771	3,377	1,213	1,182	16.7	16.5	*19.6	*14.2
Black	524	330	125	*69	31.6	34.3	37.1	*8.4
Formerly married[2]	1,734	1,056	*429	*249	26.0	*27.4	*28.3	*15.9
Age								
15–44 years	13,020	8,431	2,153	2,436	27.2	26.9	28.9	26.4
15–24 years	5,758	4,737	*277	744	35.7	34.3	51.8	38.8
15–19 years	1,640	1,472	*30	*138	43.6	42.0	*62.2	*56.9
25–34 years	5,981	3,369	1,269	1,343	22.3	18.3	31.5	23.6
35–44 years	1,281	*325	607	*349	*11.6	*9.7	*13.3	*10.4

[1] Includes white, black, and other races.
[2] Not shown separately by race because of insufficient sample size.

Appendixes

Contents

I. Technical notes 43
Background 43
Statistical design 43
Measurement process 44
Data reduction 44
Reliability of estimates 44

II. Definitions of terms 48
Ever use of contraception 48
Current contraceptive status 48
Demographic terms 49

III. Selected sections of the questionnaire of the National Survey of Family Growth 51

List of appendix tables

I. Estimates of parameters *A* and *B* for relative standard error curves by age, marital status, and race of woman 45
II. Approximate relative standard errors and standard errors for estimated number of women of all races combined: 1982 National Survey of Family Growth 45
III. Approximate standard errors for estimated percents expressed in percentage points for women of all races: 1982 National Survey of Family Growth 45

Appendix I
Technical notes

Background

This report is one of a series based on the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The NSFG was designed to provide data on fertility, family planning, and aspects of maternal and child health that are closely related to childbearing.

The NSFG is a periodic survey based on personal interviews with a nationwide sample of women. The NSFG has been conducted three times, in 1973, 1976, and 1982. The present report is based on Cycle III of the NSFG. A detailed report on Cycle III is contained in National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle III sample design, weighting, and variance estimation, Series 2, No. 98, of *Vital and Health Statistics.*[11] A detailed description of the methods and procedures used in Cycle I can be found in National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle I, sample design, estimation procedures, and variance estimation, Series 2, No. 76, of *Vital and Health Statistics.*[25] A detailed description of the methods and procedures of Cycle II can be found in National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle II: sample design, estimation procedures, and variance estimation, Series 2, No. 87, of *Vital and Health Statistics.*[26] This appendix presents a summary of the more important technical aspects of the 1982 NSFG.

Fieldwork for Cycle III was performed under a contract with NCHS by Westat, Inc., between August 1982 and February 1983. For the first time, the sample represented all women 15–44 years of age, regardless of marital status, including never married women, in the noninstitutionalized population of the conterminous United States. Women living in group quarters, such as college dormitories, were included in Cycle III, but not in Cycles I and II. Interviews were conducted with 7,969 women in Cycle III; 3,201 were black women, 4,577 were white women, and 191 were of other races.

Interviews were conducted by trained female interviewers in respondents' homes and lasted an average of 1 hour. The interview focused on a woman's pregnancy history; her use of contraceptives in each pregnancy interval; her physical ability to bear children; her expectations of bearing children in the future; her use of family planning and infertility services; her marital history; labor force participation; and a wide range of social, economic, and demographic characteristics.

NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

Statistical design

The NSFG is based on a multistage area probability sample. Black households and households with resident teenage women were sampled at higher rates than other households so that reliable estimates of statistics could be presented separately for black and teenage women. In addition, the sample was designed to provide tabulations for each of the four major geographic regions of the United States.

The first stage of the sample design consisted of drawing a sample of primary sampling units (PSU's). A PSU consisted of a county, a small group of contiguous counties, or a standard metropolitan statistical area as defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in 1970. The second and third stages of sampling were used to select several segments (clusters of 15 to about 60 dwelling units) within each PSU. A systematic sample of dwelling units was then selected from each segment. Each sample dwelling unit was visited by an interviewer who listed all household members. The interviewer then consulted a computer-generated sampling table to determine which woman, if any, should be interviewed.

The statistics in this report are estimates for the national population and were computed by multiplying each sample case by the number of women she represented in the population. The multipliers, or final weights, ranged from under 500 to over 50,000 and averaged about 7,000. They were derived by using three basic steps:

- *Inflation by the reciprocal of the probability of selection*—The probability of selection is the product of the probabilities of selection of the PSU, segment, household, and sample person within the household.
- *Nonresponse adjustment*—The weighted estimates were ratio adjusted for nonresponse by a multiplication of two factors. The first factor adjusted for nonresponse to the screener by imputing the characteristics of women in responding households to women in nonresponding households in the same PSU and stratum. The second factor adjusted for nonresponse to the interview by imputing the characteristics of responding women to nonresponding women in the same age-race-marital status category and PSU. Response to the screener was 95.1 percent, and response to the interview was 83.5 percent, yielding a combined response rate of approximately 79.4 percent.[11]
- *Poststratification by marital status, age, and race*—The estimates were ratio adjusted within each of 24 age-race-marital status categories to independent estimates of the

population of women aged 15–44 years. The independent estimates were derived from the U.S. Bureau of the Census Current Population Surveys.

The effect of the ratio-estimating process was to make the sample more closely representative of the noninstitutionalized population of women 15–44 years of age in the conterminous United States. The final poststratification reduced the sample variance of the estimates for most statistics.

All figures were individually rounded; aggregate figures (numbers) were rounded to the nearest thousand. Aggregate numbers and percents may not sum to the total because of the rounding.

Measurement process

Field operations for Cycle III were performed by Westat, Inc., under contract with NCHS; these operations included pretesting the interview schedule, selecting the sample, interviewing respondents, and performing specified quality control checks. Interviewers, all of whom were female, were trained for 1 week prior to fieldwork. The first five interview schedules done by each interviewer were reviewed; after a high level of quality was achieved by an interviewer, this review was reduced to a sample of questionnaires, unless an unacceptable level of error was found again. A 10-percent sample of respondents was recontacted by telephone to verify that the interview had taken place and that certain key items were accurately recorded.

A portion of the interview schedule applicable to this report is reproduced in appendix III. Two forms of the questionnaire were used, one for women 15–24 years of age, and one for women 25–44 years of age. The questionnaire for women 15–24 years of age included a few additional items referring to early experiences that women over 25 could not be expected to remember accurately.

Data reduction

The responses of each woman to the interview questions were translated into predetermined numerical codes, and these code numbers were recorded on computer tapes. The first few questionnaires coded by each coder were checked completely; after an acceptable level of quality was reached, verification of coding was performed on a systematic sample of each coder's questionnaires. The data were edited by computer to identify inconsistencies among responses, and to identify code numbers that were not allowed in the coding scheme; these errors were corrected.

Missing data on all variables used in this report were imputed to provide consistent national estimates. If the level of missing data is relatively high (more than 5 percent), this fact is noted in the section entitled "Definitions of terms." Only two items are so affected: Poverty level income and age (or date) of first intercourse.

Reliability of estimates

Because the statistics presented in this report are based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same questionnaires, instructions, interviewing personnel, and field procedures. This chance difference between sample results and a complete count is referred to as sampling error.

Sampling error is measured by a statistic called the standard error of estimate. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample will differ from a complete count by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference between the sample estimate and a complete count will be less than twice the standard error. The relative standard error of an estimate is obtained by dividing the standard error of the estimate by the estimate itself, and is expressed as a percent of the estimate. Numbers and percents that have a relative standard error that is more than 30 percent are considered unreliable. These figures are marked with an asterisk to caution the user, but may be combined to make other types of comparisons of greater reliability.

Estimation of standard errors

Because of the complex multistage design of the NSFG sample, conventional formulas for calculating sampling errors are inapplicable. Standard errors were, therefore, estimated empirically by using a technique known as balanced half-sample replication. This technique produces highly reliable, unbiased estimates of sampling errors. Its application to the NSFG has been described elsewhere.[11,25,26]

Because it would be prohibitively expensive to estimate, and cumbersome to publish, a standard error for each percent or other statistic by this technique, standard errors were computed for selected statistics and population subgroups that were chosen to represent a wide variety of demographic characteristics and a wide variation in the size of the estimates themselves. Curves were then fitted to the relative standard error estimates (ratio of the standard error to the estimate itself) for numbers of women according to the model

$$\mathrm{RSE}(N') = \left(A + \frac{B}{N'}\right)^{1/2}$$

where N' is the number of women and A and B are the parameters whose estimates determine the shape of the curve. Separate curves were fitted for women of all races combined, for black women, and for women of races other than black, because different sampling rates were used for black and other women. Separate curves were fitted for teenagers, for the same reason. The estimates of A and B are shown in table I.

To calculate the estimated standard error or relative standard error of an aggregate or percent, the appropriate estimates of A and B are used in the equations

$$\mathrm{RSE}_{N'} = \left(A + \frac{B}{N'}\right)^{1/2}$$

$$\mathrm{SE}_{N'} = \left(A + \frac{B}{N'}\right)^{1/2} N'$$

NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

Table I. Estimates of parameters *A* and *B* for relative standard error curves by age, marital status, and race of woman

Age, marital status, and race	Parameter A	Parameter B
15–44 years		
All races and white:		
All marital statuses	−0.0003935957	21306.413351
Ever married	−0.0010973290	39809.167683
Never married	−0.0009351043	17608.883330
Black: All marital statuses; ever married; never married	−0.0009086323	6346.048380
15–19 years		
All races and white	−0.001456493	13862.104404
Black	−0.003322363	4727.056926

$$\mathrm{RSE}_{P'} = \left(\frac{B}{P'} \cdot \frac{100 - P'}{X'}\right)^{1/2}$$

$$\mathrm{SE}_{P'} = \left(B \times P' \cdot \frac{100 - P'}{X'}\right)^{1/2}$$

where N' = number of women

P' = percent

X' = number of women in the denominator of the percent

SE = standard error

RSE = relative standard error

Tables II and III show some illustrative standard errors of aggregates and percents of women of all races from Cycle III of the NSFG.

Testing differences

The standard error of a difference between two comparative statistics, such as the proportion surgically sterile among white couples compared with black couples, is approximately the square root of the sum of the squares of the standard errors of the statistics considered separately; or, calculated by the formula, if

$$d = P'_1 - P'_2$$

Table II. Approximate relative standard errors and standard errors for estimated number of women of all races combined: 1982 National Survey of Family Growth

Size of estimate	Relative standard error	Standard error
50,000	65.2	33,000
100,000	46.1	46,000
500,000	20.5	102,000
1,000,000	14.5	144,000
3,000,000	8.2	245,000
5,000,000	6.2	310,000
7,000,000	5.1	359,000
10,000,000	4.2	416,000
30,000,000	1.8	532,000

Table III. Approximate standard errors for estimated percents expressed in percentage points for women of all races: 1982 National Survey of Family Growth

Base of percent	Estimated percent 2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	20 or 80	30 or 70	40 or 60	50
100,000	6.5	10.1	13.8	18.5	21.2	22.6	23.1
500,000	2.9	4.5	6.2	8.3	9.5	10.1	10.3
1,000,000	2.0	3.2	4.4	5.8	6.7	7.2	7.3
5,000,000	0.9	1.4	2.0	2.6	3.0	3.2	3.3
10,000,000	0.6	1.0	1.4	1.8	2.1	2.3	2.3
30,000,000	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3
50,000,000	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0

EXAMPLE OF USE OF TABLE: If 30 percent of women in a specific category were using the pill and the base of that percent was 10,000,000, then the 30-percent column and the 10,000,000 row indicate that 1 standard error is 2.1 percentage points and 2 standard errors are twice that, or 4.2 percentage points. Therefore, the chances are 95 out of 100 that the true percent in the population was between 25.8 and 34.2 (30.0 percent plus or minus 4.2 percent). This is called a 95-percent confidence interval. In addition, the relative standard error of that 30-percent estimate is 2.1 percent divided by 30 percent, or 7.0 percent.

then

$$S_d = \sqrt{(P'_1)^2 \cdot (\mathrm{RSE}_{P'1})^2 + (P'_2)^2 \cdot (\mathrm{RSE}_{P'2})^2}$$

where P'_1 is the estimated percent for one group, P'_2 is the estimated percent for the other group, and $\mathrm{RSE}_{P'1}$ and $\mathrm{RSE}_{P'2}$ are the relative standard errors of P'_1 and P'_2, respectively. This formula will represent the actual standard error quite accurately for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics although it is only a rough approximation in most other cases.

A difference among comparable proportions or other statistics from two or more subgroups is statistically significant when a difference of that size or larger would be expected by chance in less than 5 percent of repeated samples of the same size and type, if no true difference existed in the populations sampled. Such a difference would be statistically significant at the 0.05 level. By this criterion, if the observed difference or a larger one could be expected by chance in more than 5 percent of repeated samples, then one cannot be sufficiently confident to conclude that a real difference exists between the populations. When an observed difference is large enough to be statistically significant, the true difference in the population is estimated to lie between the observed difference plus or minus 2 standard errors of that difference in 95 out of 100 samples.

Although the 5-percent criterion is conventionally applied, it is in a sense arbitrary; depending on the purpose of the particular comparison, a different level of significance may be more useful. For greater confidence one would test for significance at the 0.01 (1-percent) level, but if one can accept a 10-percent chance of concluding a difference exists when there actually is none in the population, a test of significance at the 10-percent level would be appropriate.

The term "similar" means that any observed difference between two estimates being compared is not statistically significant, but terms such as "greater," "less," "larger," and "smaller" indicate that the observed differences are statistically

significant at the 0.05 level, by using a two-tailed t-test with 39 degrees of freedom. Statements about differences that are qualified in some way (for example, by the phrases "the data suggest" or "some evidence") indicate that the difference is significant at the 0.10 level but not the 0.05 level.

When a substantial difference observed is found not to be statistically significant, one should not conclude that no difference exists, but simply that such a difference cannot be established with 95-percent confidence from this sample. This is especially important in Cycle III because the number of ever married women in the sample is 4,651 in Cycle III, compared with 7,970 in Cycle II—a reduction of 42 percent. This means that the standard errors in Cycle III are larger than in Cycle II, so it is harder to establish significant differences in Cycle III than in Cycle II. Lack of comment in the text about any two statistics does not mean that the difference was tested and found not to be significant.

The number of replicates in the balanced half-sample replication design minus one (39 in Cycle III) can reasonably be used as an estimate of the number of degrees of freedom, although the exact value of the degrees of freedom is unknown. Therefore, in this report, differences between sample statistics are compared by using a two-tailed t-test with 39 degrees of freedom.

Example: In 1982, 68.8 percent of 25,195,000 currently married white women were using some method of contraception, compared with 61.0 percent of the 2,130,000 currently married black women. To test this racial difference at the 0.05 level of significance, compute

$$t = \frac{68.8 - 61.0}{\sqrt{(68.8)^2 \cdot \mathrm{RSE}^2_{(68.8)} + (61.0)^2 \cdot \mathrm{RSE}^2_{(61.0)}}}$$

Relative standard errors are computed using the appropriate values for B from table I:

$$\mathrm{RSE}_{(68.8)} = \sqrt{\frac{39{,}809.1677}{68.8} \cdot \frac{100 - 68.8}{25{,}195{,}000}}$$

$$= 0.027$$

and

$$\mathrm{RSE}_{(61.0)} = \sqrt{\frac{6{,}346.0484}{61.0} \cdot \frac{100 - 61.0}{2{,}130{,}000}}$$

$$= 0.044$$

thus

$$t = \frac{68.8 - 61.0}{\sqrt{(68.8)^2 \cdot (0.027)^2 + (61.0)^2 \cdot (0.044)^2}}$$

$$= 2.39$$

The two-tailed 0.95 critical value $(1 - \alpha)$ for a t statistic with 39 degrees of freedom is 2.02. Therefore, the difference is significant at the 5-percent level.

Nonsampling error

Although sampling error affects the reliability of survey estimates, nonsampling error may introduce bias. The results of any survey are subject to at least four types of potential nonsampling error, including interview nonresponse; nonresponse to individual questions or items within the interview; inconsistency of responses to questions; and errors of recording, coding, and keying by survey personnel.

To minimize nonsampling error, stringent quality control procedures were introduced at every stage of the survey including a check on completeness of the household listing; extensive training and practice of interviewers; field editing of questionnaires; short verification interviews with a subsample of respondents; verification of coding and editing; an independent recode of a sample of questionnaires by NCHS; keypunch verification; and an extensive computer "cleaning" to check for inconsistent responses, missing data, and invalid codes. A detailed description of some of these procedures follows; others were previously discussed.

Interview nonresponse. Interview nonresponse occurs when no part of an interview is obtained. It can result from failures at any of three principal steps: (*a*) failing to list all households in sample segments, (*b*) failing to screen all listed households, and (*c*) failing to interview an eligible woman in each screened household. A discussion of these steps follows.

The completeness of listing cannot be tested directly because it requires an independent, accurate enumeration of the households that should have been listed. In the NSFG, listing completeness and accuracy were tested by the missed dwelling unit (DU) procedure at the time of screening: If the first structure in a segment was included in the sample, the whole segment was checked to see if any structures had been missed in the listing process; if the first structure was a multiple-DU structure, and if the first-listed unit in the building was included in the sample, the entire structure was checked for missed DU's.

Of the original sample of 34,641 DU's screened, 3,614 were found vacant or not DU's.[11] Of the 31,027 occupied DU's, 4.9 percent were not screened successfully. Screening was completed in 29,511 households; 9,964 of these contained eligible respondents who were selected for interview. Interviews were not completed with 16.5 percent of these cases because of (*a*) refusals by respondents (8.3 percent) and by the parents of respondents under 18 years of age (1.5 percent), (*b*) lack of contact after repeated calls (2.8 percent), or (*c*) other problems (4.0 percent).

The nonresponse adjustment for interview nonresponse described earlier imputes the characteristics of responding women of the same age group, race, marital status, and geographic area to nonresponding women.

Item nonresponse. Item nonresponse may have occurred when a respondent refused to answer a question or did not know the answer to a question, when the question was erroneously not asked or the answer was not recorded by the interviewer, or when the answer could not be coded. Nonresponse

NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

to individual questions was very low in Cycle III as it was in Cycle II. Some examples of item nonresponse among a total of 7,969 respondents are as follows: religion of respondent, 11 cases; respondent's occupation, 37 cases. The question with the most item nonresponse was family income (from which poverty level income was derived), with 1,767 cases. Missing data were imputed for all data items in this report. For those few items where the proportion of cases imputed was high, this fact is noted in the appropriate section of the definitions.

As with all survey data, responses to the NSFG are subject to possible deliberate misreporting by the respondent. Such misreporting cannot be detected directly, but can be detected indirectly by the extensive computer "cleaning" and editing procedures used in the NSFG.

Appendix II
Definitions of terms

Ever use of contraception

Ever use of contraceptive methods—A woman was classified as ever using a specific contraceptive method (for example, pill, diaphragm, female sterilization) if she reported using that method for a month or more, if she reported ever using it, or if she reported it as the first method she ever used. A woman was classified as having used condom or male sterilization (methods used by men) if she ever had sexual intercourse when these methods were used.

Use at first sexual intercourse—A woman was classified as having used a method at her first sexual intercourse if she reported that she used a contraceptive method the first time she had intercourse. This answer was one of six answers the woman could choose from a card in response to the question, "When did you (or your partner) use (first method) for the first time?" For women who reported using a method at their first intercourse, the first method she reported ever using was classified as the method she used at her first intercourse.

First method ever used—First method ever used was determined by the question, "Thinking back to the very first time you had intercourse when a method was used, which method on the card was that?" Respondents were handed a card listing 14 methods of contraception and an open-ended category for reporting other methods not listed on the card.

Current contraceptive status

Current contraceptive status is presented in a variety of ways in this report. Detailed tables 8 and 9 show the percent distribution of all women according to whether they were using a method of contraception, the methods used by contraceptors, and reasons for nonuse by noncontraceptors. These tables give information such as the percents of all women using a particular method or not using a method because they are seeking pregnancy. Text table D and detailed tables 10, 12, and 14 also show current contraceptive status for all women, but in summary form. Text table C shows contraceptive status in yet another form: The percent of women exposed to the risk of unintended pregnancy who were using a method of contraception. In this table, the measure of contraceptive status is refined to exclude from consideration women who are not using a method because they are sterile for reasons other than contraception, pregnant, post partum, seeking pregnancy, or have not had sexual intercourse in the 3 months before the interview.

Finally, tables C, F, and 13 show the percent distribution by current method only for contracepting women (including those using surgical sterilization), while tables E, 11, and 15 show the percent distribution by current method of nonsurgical contraceptors. These tables give information on the relative importance of different methods among all methods and nonsurgical methods. They also permit comparisons of contraceptive method choices among groups differing in the percent using contraception. In all of these tables the categories of current contraceptive status are consistently defined in the manner described below; but they are grouped in different ways to provide different kinds of information about contraceptive use.

Sterile couples

Sterile—A currently married woman was classified as sterile for the purposes of determining current contraceptive status if she reported that it was impossible for her and her husband to have a baby. An unmarried woman was classified as sterile if she reported that it was impossible for her to have a baby, or if her current method of contraception was male sterilization.

Nonsurgical—A woman (or couple) was classified as nonsurgically sterile if she reported that it was impossible for her to have a baby for any reason other than a sterilizing operation. Reported nonsurgical reasons for sterility included menopause and sterility due to accident, illness, or congenital causes.

Surgical—A woman (or couple) was classified as surgically sterile if she or her husband were completely sterile due to an operation, or if her current method of contraception was male sterilization.

Because sterilizing operations are very frequently obtained exclusively or partly as methods of contraception (that is, because of their complete effectiveness against conception rather than for purely therapeutic reasons), they have been further classified as contraceptive and noncontraceptive. In Cycle I, a sterilizing operation was contraceptive if the respondent answered "yes" to the question "Was the operation done at least partly so that you would not have any more children?" The question was reworded in Cycles II and III to "Was one reason for the operation because you had all the children you wanted?"

The percents of women contraceptively and noncontraceptively sterile are not fully comparable between Cycle I and Cycles II and III. The rewording of the question cited above probably reduced the percent of sterilizing operations classified as contraceptive, because an operation that was done to prevent a pregnancy that would be dangerous to the woman's health usually would have been reported as contraceptive in Cycle I, but as noncontraceptive in Cycles II and III. Also, in Cycle I, if a couple had had more than one sterilizing operation—for

example, a vasectomy followed a few years later by a hysterectomy—the interviewer coded the earliest operation. In Cycles II and III, however, the woman's operation was given priority. Both of these factors tended to increase the proportion of sterilizing operations classified as noncontraceptive in 1976 and 1982, compared with 1973.

It should be noted that the estimates of male contraceptive sterilization reflect the numbers of women relying on this method, and not necessarily the numbers of men who have been sterilized for contraceptive reasons.

Noncontraceptors

Pregnant—A woman was classified as pregnant if she replied affirmatively to the question "Are you pregnant now?" or, for those in doubt, "Do you think you are probably pregnant or not?" However, a woman who reported that the onset of her last menstrual period was within the 30 days prior to the interview was automatically considered not pregnant.

Seeking pregnancy—A woman was classified as seeking pregnancy if she reported she was not using a method at the time of interview because she wanted to become pregnant.

Post partum—A woman was classified as post partum if she reported she was not currently using a method, was not seeking a pregnancy, and her last pregnancy had terminated within 2 months before the date she was interviewed.

Other nonusers—Women who reported they were currently using no contraceptive method and could not be classified in any of the preceding categories of noncontraceptors were classified here. Among these are women who had never had intercourse, had not had intercourse in the last 3 months, were indifferent to the chances of pregnancy, had a very low risk of pregnancy due to some fecundity impairment, or objected to contraceptive methods for personal or religious reasons.

Never had intercourse—A woman was classified as never having had intercourse if she was not currently using a method and she had never had sexual intercourse at any time up to the time of interview, or if she had had sexual intercourse but not after her first menstrual period.

No intercourse in last 3 months—A woman was classified as not having intercourse in the last 3 months if she was not currently using a method and reported not having sexual intercourse in any of the 3 months before the interview.

Intercourse in last 3 months—A woman was classified as having intercourse in the last 3 months if she was not currently using a method and was having sexual intercourse in the month of the interview or in any of the 3 months preceding the interview.

Contraceptors

Method users—"Nonsurgical contraceptors" refers to women currently using a contraceptive method other than a surgical sterilization at the date of interview. "Surgical contraceptors" refers to women who have had a surgical sterilization because they have had all the children they wanted, or whose husbands or partners have had a surgical sterilization because they have had all the children they wanted. "Contraceptors" include both those using sterilization and other methods of contraception at the date of interview.

A woman who reported use of a contraceptive method at the date of interview was classified according to the specific method used. Methods used by extremely small proportions of the population such as jelly, cream, suppositories, or abstinence, not in combination with any other methods, were grouped in the category "Other." Where more than one method was reported in current use, the method generally considered the most effective was used for classification purposes. The hierarchy used for this purpose was, from the most effective to the least effective method: female sterilization, male sterilization, pill, IUD, diaphragm, condom, foam, periodic abstinence, withdrawal, douche, and other.

Demographic terms

Age—Age is classified by the age of the respondent at her last birthday before the date of interview.

Race—Race refers to the race of the woman interviewed and is reported as black, white, or other. In Cycle III, race was classified according to the woman's report of which race best described her. In Cycles I and II, race was classified by the observation of the interviewer. Comparisons of the results of Cycle III using both definitions indicate that results using either method of classification are very similar.

Marital status—Persons were classified by marital status as married, widowed, divorced, separated, or never married. In Cycles I and II, informally married women—women who volunteered that they were sharing living quarters with their sexual partner—were classified as currently married. These women constituted about 2 percent of currently married respondents in Cycle I and 3 percent in Cycle II. In Cycle III, such women were classified according to their legal marital status. Thus, statistics on currently married women for 1982 shown in this report are not strictly comparable to those for 1973 and 1976. However, reclassifying women in the 1973 and 1976 surveys according to the 1982 definition of marital status makes little difference in the distributions of currently married women by contraceptive status for these years.

In all cycles, women who were married but separated from their spouse were classified as separated if the reason for the separation was marital discord, and as currently married otherwise.

Hispanic origin—A respondent was classified as being of Hispanic origin if she reported that her only or principal national origin was Puerto Rican, Cuban, Mexican American, Central or South American or other Spanish. In tables where data are presented for women by race, women of Hispanic origin are included in the statistics for white and black women if they were classified as such by race.

Age at first intercourse—Age at first sexual intercourse was ascertained by the question, "Thinking back, *after* your first menstrual period, when did you have sexual intercourse for the first time—what month and year was that?" Women who could not recall the exact month (or season) and year were asked their age at first intercourse and whether it occurred before or after the birthday for the given age. Age at first intercourse was calculated from the month (or season) and year, if given, or taken directly from the followup questions for age.

Age was classified according to the woman's age at her last birthday before her first intercourse.

The data on age (or date) of first intercourse were missing for 7 percent of cases and inconsistent with other information for another 4 percent of cases. Some of these cases were adjusted individually, while others were imputed. All were checked for consistency with other information.

Living arrangements at age 14—Women were classified as living with both parents if they answered "yes" to the question, "When you were 14, were you living with both your own mother and your own father?" If they answered "no," they were classified as living with one or neither parent.

Region of residence—Data are classified by region of residence into the four major Census regions: Northeast, North Central, South, and West. Sample size greatly restricts the possibility of meaningful analyses by social characteristics among smaller geographic divisions. The states included in these four major geographic regions are as follows:

Geographic region and division	*States included*
Northeast:	
New England	Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut
Middle Atlantic	New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania
North Central:	
East North Central	Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin
West North Central	Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas
South:	
South Atlantic	Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida
East South Central	Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi
West South Central	Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas
West:	
Mountain	Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada
Pacific	Washington, Oregon, California

Education—Education was classified according to the highest grade or year of regular school or college that was completed. Determination of the highest year of regular school or college completed by the respondent was based on responses to a series of questions concerning (*a*) the last grade or year of school attended and (*b*) whether that grade was completed.

Religion—Women were classified by religion in response to the question, "Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, or something else?" In addition to the three major religious groupings, two other categories—other and none—were used. Because the category of Protestant includes numerous individual denominations, these respondents were further asked to identify the denomination to which they belonged. Those who answered "other" to the original question and named a Protestant denomination were included as Protestant. Although specific denominational names were obtained and recorded, the numbers of cases for most denominations were too few to produce reliable estimates; therefore, they were combined in larger categories.

Parity—Parity refers to the number of live births the respondent has had.

Labor force status—A woman was categorized as being "in the labor force" if she was working full time; part time; had a job, but was not at work because of temporary illness, vacation, or a strike; or if she was unemployed, laid off, or looking for work; or if she was on maternity leave.

Intent to have more children—Fecund women were asked, "Do you (and your husband) intend to have a(nother) baby?" If the woman was pregnant at the date of the interview, she was asked, "Do you (and your husband) intend to have another baby after this one is born?" Women who answered affirmatively were classified as intending to have a child or another child; women who answered negatively were classified as not intending to have a child or another child. If the respondent said (*a*) she and her husband disagreed or (*b*) she did not know whether she intended to have a baby or another baby, the woman was classified as having "uncertain intentions"; because less than 5 percent of women had uncertain intentions or disagreed with their husbands about their intentions, this small group is not shown separately in this report.

Years since wife's first marriage—This refers to the number of years between the woman's first marriage and the interview date.

Poverty level income—The poverty index ratio was calculated by dividing the total family income by the weighted average threshold income of families with the head of household under 65 years of age, and is expressed as a percent of the poverty levels shown in U.S. Bureau of the Census Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 140, "Money income and poverty status of families and persons in the United States: 1982," table A-3. This definition accounts for the sex of the head of the family and the number of persons in the family. Total family income includes income from all sources for all members of the respondent's family. For a substantial number of respondents (22 percent), total family income was not ascertained. These missing values were imputed using a known value of another similar, randomly selected respondent. Because of these high levels of missing data, small differences by poverty level income should be interpreted with caution.

Appendix III
Selected sections of the questionnaire of the National Survey of Family Growth

	1st Method	2nd Method	3rd Method	Last Method
C-35. Looking again at the card and starting with the first method used since your (first intercourse/last pregnancy), please tell me the letter for each method used for one month or more, in the order you used them. PROBE: What other methods? (ENTER METHODS IN ORDER IN THE ANSWER AREA. CIRCLE NEW METHODS ON METHOD CALENDAR.) HAND CARD 11	20-22	33-35	46-48	59-61
ASK C-36 THROUGH C-39 IN SEQUENCE FOR EACH METHOD MENTIONED. C-36. Since your (first intercourse/last pregnancy), in what month and year did you start to use (METHOD)?	MO / YR 23-26	MO / YR 36-39	MO / YR 49-52	MO / YR 62-65

BOX 23. IF METHOD IS I -- FEMALE STERILIZATION, GO TO C-43. OTHERWISE, CONTINUE.

C-37. During the months when you were using (METHOD), how many times, if any, did you skip and not use any method? Would you say you skipped using a method . . .				
Most times,	1	1	1	1
Often,	2	2	2	2
Sometimes,	3 27	3 40	3 53	3 66
Once or twice,	4	4	4	4
Or, not at all?	5	5	5	5

BOX 24. IF LAST METHOD, CONTINUE WITH C-38. OTHERWISE, GO TO C-39.

	28	41	54	67
C-38. Are you (and your partner) still using (METHOD)? Yes	1 (C-42)	1 (C-42)	1 (C-42)	1 (C-42)
No	2 (C-39)	2 (C-39)	2 (C-39)	2 (C-39)
C-39. In what month and year did you stop using (METHOD)?	MO / YR 29-32	MO / YR 42-45	MO / YR 55-58	MO / YR 68-71

BOX 25.
- IF ANY OTHER METHODS, GO TO NEXT METHOD, C-36.
- IF R IS IN A PERIOD OF NON-INTERCOURSE (CHECK C-31 AND C-33), GO TO C-42.
- OTHERWISE, CONTINUE.

D-1. Some (couples/women) find it physically impossible to have (more) children. As far as you know, is it possible or impossible for you (and your husband) to conceive a(nother) baby, that is, to get pregnant (again)?

Possible 1 (D-15)
Impossible 2 (D-2) 18
Don't know, not sure 8 (D-15)

D-2. Have you (or your husband) had an operation, or more than one operation, that makes it impossible for you to conceive a(nother) baby (together)?

Yes. 1 (D-3)
No 2 (D-12) 19

D-3. What kind of operation, or operations, did you (or your husband) have that makes it impossible to have a(nother) baby? (CIRCLE CODE(S) ON TOP OF TABLE ON NEXT PAGE. IF CODE 5 CIRCLED, GO TO BOX 36 BELOW.)

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